

IF ONLY O.J. HAD READ MY BOOK

Alice Walker on racism and feminism, PAGE 21



BEWARE OF FAMILY VALUES, MR BLAIR

Simon Jenkins PAGE 22



INTERFACE 60 CD-ROM WORLD TRAVEL GUIDES TO BE WON PREMIUM LINE ENTRY

NIGELLA LAWSON

Alertness, propaganda and science PAGE 23



High-spending euro states face heavy fines

FROM CHARLES BREMINER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN countries that fail to control their budget deficits after joining a single currency will face heavy and repeated fines...

states has been designed over the past year, largely under German pressure, and is expected to be adopted today.

prosper that most of the EU's 15 states will qualify to join the currency in 1999.

EMU entry set out in the Maastricht treaty. If such states failed to reduce the deficit...

be seized and contributed to the EU budget as a fine and a further deposit immediately demanded.

that their national parliaments forced them to overspend.

German officials are pleased that the rest of the EU has swung round to a scheme privately dismissed as unworkable last year.

Ministers opt to extend handgun ban

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ABSOLUTE ban on the most dangerous handguns, including semi-automatics of the type used by Thomas Hamilton in the Dunblane massacre...



Forsyth: victory over cautious colleagues

The Government intends to allow people to continue to shoot the .22 pistols used in Olympic competition and lower calibre weapons at clubs.

Labour would allow exceptions for professionals such as veterinary surgeons, the police, the military or seafarers firing distress flares.

ownership of guns only because of Labour pressure. The Government's position, while angering the gun lobby...

Downing Street said that the Cabinet had agreed "a substantive and very considered response".

Enthusiasts determined to hang on to their handguns may find it possible to have them adapted to take only a single shot or have the barrel replaced with one of the smaller calibre.



Alison Radbourne hugs her daughter Ann-Marie in Exeter yesterday

Girl, 10, reunited with mother

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl who disappeared with her family lodger was reunited with her mother yesterday after police spotted the couple walking along a road in Exeter.

found by two Ministry of Defence police. The girl was well but hungry after being away from her Paignton home since Sunday.

just felt seeing the older man with a young girl did not seem right. Ann-Marie was very quiet but not frightened or distressed.

In-store GPs

Supermarkets will be free to run doctors' surgeries, under proposals to deregulate GP care. Page 9

Passenger goes berserk on Atlantic flight

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

SIX passengers on a Virgin Atlantic jet yesterday joined in a terrifying mid-air struggle to control an American who went berserk at 30,000ft, halfway across the Atlantic.



Hogan: punched rowdy passenger in the face

As the captain made preparations to make an emergency landing at Shannon airport, the man was subdued when Paul Hogan, another passenger...

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin, last night wrote to the passengers to thank them for their courage and the crew paid tribute to Mr Hogan, 32. However, Mr Hogan, wearing a blood-spattered T-shirt...



"Cigarettes, perfumes, knuckledusters..."

shirt, said: "I didn't have time to be frightened, I was thinking about my family and all the other passengers."

Markets and pound surge

Confidence in Britain's economic policies yesterday propelled the pound to its best level against the mark for nearly two years and the stock market to another record.

The Speaker has paved the way for an inquiry into allegations that David Willetts, the Paymaster General, tried to influence an independent Commons investigation into the cash-for-questions affair.

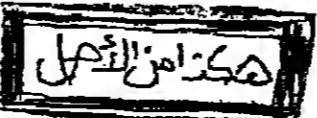
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SWIFTCALL advertisement with 'listen' logo and international call rates table.





مكذبات الرصاص

ITV fights lure of the Queen Vic with a feel-good tale of Tyneside yuppies

Geordies take on East End in battle of the soap operas

By PAUL WILKINSON

TYNESIDE is to be the latest battleground in the ratings war among television soap operas. A new programme, already dubbed North-EastEnders, is being launched by ITV to tackle EastEnders, the BBC's flagship series. Quayside intends to be different to its rivals, which are mostly set in the nondescript backstreets of the inner city. Although its makers deny it is a yuppie soap, its characters are distinctly upwardly mobile and the show is aimed at the 25- to 30-something age group. The location is the Quayside quarter of Newcastle upon Tyne, until recently a semi-derelict industrial mess sprawling along the river under the city's famous "cathanger" bridge. Much like the Docklands of east London, millions of pounds have been spent rejuvenating the site and it is now a hive of smart restaurants, cosmopolitan bars and stylish homes. It also has a burgeoning commercial heart, mainly involved in professional and high-tech businesses. Instead of the Queen Vic, the EastEnders cackney pub, there is Mal's Bar, where drinkers are as likely to ask for a Bloody Mary as a Brown Ale. And the characters are more likely to be networking on the mobile than gossiping in the laundrette. Quayside starts on January 7 in the Tyneside region, broadcasting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same time as EastEnders, which last week topped Coronation Street as the nation's favourite soap. After a four-month trial ITV hopes to launch it nationally. It is a

co-production by Tyne-Tees, recently renamed Channel 3 North-East, and the independent programme maker Zenith North, responsible for several Geordie-based successes including the children's soap Byker Grove and adaptations of Catherine Cookson's novels. Matthew Robinson, its producer and director, said it would not tackle controversial issues such as the Brookside incest storyline or Mark Fowler's battle with HIV in EastEnders. Mr Robinson, who has already worked on more than 500 episodes of Coronation Street, EastEnders and Emmerdale, said: "Quayside will be a feel-good soap. No issue, no doom, no gloom, you can get that on every other channel. We will be reflecting how vibrant an area the Quayside is. It will be an accurate reflection of what life in Newcastle and the Quayside is like in the 1990s. "It will be about relationships and fun. The characters will be attractive, dare I say sexy. We want the viewers to climb through their TV screens and join in the fun." One of the early storylines will focus on a love triangle involving the bar's owner, Malcolm Shepherd, a former soccer star, his fiancée, Nicole Sexton, an aspiring 19-year-old model, and Caitlin Kennedy, who sets up a special events firm next door. Nicole soon ends up in the arms of the bar doorman, Carl Bugle, played by Glenn McCrory, a former world cruiserweight boxing champion turned actor and Sky TV commentator. He was recently offered a 16-month contract with

the Royal Shakespeare Company and once auditioned for the part of James Bond in GoldenEye, which eventually went to Pierce Brosnan. Nicole's part of a bubbly party-girl who loves to be seen in Newcastle's trendiest nightspots is played by Emma-Louise Webb. She said: "Nicole is a model who is a bit scatter-brained and naive, the sort of girl who gets excited by the easiest thing and wants to be in the big time. "I know Coronation Street and EastEnders are the big soaps but I think Quayside will be a big hit with viewers." Mr Robinson said: "The love triangle between Nicole, Mal and Caitlin will be the strongest storyline running through the show, but there will be lots of other twists and turns to keep everyone guessing. "We will be going out head to head against EastEnders. That is a challenge, but one we relish. We don't have the budget the bigger soaps have, but I think there is room for a different type of soap and Quayside fits the bill. "It's a very young cast and they all come from the North. The first episode will contain a real twist but it's important we make the second episode a cracker so the audience keep coming back." Mal Shepherd, played by Joe Caffrey, is a good-looking former Newcastle United footballer who set up his bar after injury ended his playing career. Dean Atkinson plays Luke Shepherd, Mal's younger brother who wants to be a media star.



Glenn McCrory as doorman Carl Bugle and Emma Louise-Webb as Nicole in Quayside

Drink is cure for dole queue blues

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE more an unemployed man drinks the better are his chances of finding a job, according to a new report. Researchers working on behalf of the Employment Service were surprised to discover a link between alcohol consumption and escaping the dole queue. They believe that men who spend more time in the pub are meeting people who can help them to find work. People who drink could also be more outward-going and sociable than those who stay sober. "We are not saying that wine is every employer's dream," said Joan Payne, a senior research fellow who combed through the records of nearly 15,000 people. "Probably what is happening is that a lot of jobs are got informally through asking friends and getting into networks. The pub is a very big centre of these networks." The figures suggest that employment prospects improve with every drink. A sensible drinker, who has between seven and 21 units per week, increases his chances of finding a job by 21 per cent over a man who drinks little or nothing. The hard drinker, who exceeds the Government's "sensible drinking" limit of 21 units per week, is even better off. He has a 30 per cent increased prospect of employment over the teetotaler or low drinker. One unit of alcohol is a glass of wine or spirits or half a pint of beer. The Policy Studies Institute, an independent research body that prepared the report for the Government, was last night the least of some of the nation's best-known occasional drinkers. The broadcaster Terry Wogan said: "There is a long-standing tradition in radio and television of having a lot of time on your hands and hanging round between recordings. So there is a lot of steady drinking done. "In the BBC club, where people in the halcyon days used to meet and greet one another, many a programme commission changed hands over a foaming beaker. "It never happened to me personally — at least I am certainly not going to admit it now — but in our business it has probably happened that one drinker has said to another: 'Here's a 13-week contract. Why not?' "The publisher Leo Cooper admits to the "odd tip-off" about a career move from a drinking contact but would not recommend anyone to try to drink their way into a job. "I suppose it could be down to false confidence. The question is how long do you last when you have got the job? People may drink to go to an interview to boost themselves but if they have to do that then they will get rumbled soon. "There are an enormous number of drunks in my business and they are all the more cheerful people that I know. Not many of them are in full-time employment."

Couple's office tiff 'ended in 65mph chase'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COMPANY director chased his wife's car down a busy road and rammed her into a ditch after an argument at the office, a court was told yesterday. At speeds of up to 65mph, Alan Foster chased his wife Yvonne's Citroën AX bumper to bumper for four miles before hitting her car sideways with the bullbars of his Isuzu Trooper, it was alleged at Teesside Crown Court. The impact was said to have lifted the Citroën's wheels off the ground, forcing it to veer past the Trooper and somersault into the

offside verge of the A171 coastal road near Whitby, North Yorkshire. Simon Hickey, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Foster, 43, from Staintondale, near Scarborough, helped to rescue his wife from her smoking car but, when she refused to speak to him, he sped off to Whitby, where he was arrested by police. John Philliban, 29, an officer in the RAF, said that he had thought the couple were playing a game of chase when he saw Mrs Foster, looking "quite agitated", overtake his Peugeot on the road, followed shortly by the Trooper, which had

its lights blazing. Mr Philliban overtook the cars to get out of the way but they soon gained on him again. "They filled my rear-view mirror," Mr Philliban told the jury. "I saw the Isuzu literally slam into the rear back panel of the Citroën, causing it to swerve. She was trying to keep straight. It was pushing on the side of the Citroën. The Citroën just slowed across the Isuzu on two wheels. Then, as all the wheels hit the road, it shot off, hit the kerb and somersaulted, ending upside down in the ditch. "I did a U-turn and when I reached it there was smoke coming

from the vehicle and the woman driver was trapped inside, very distressed." He and other motorists, including Mr Foster, pushed the car back onto its four wheels, the court was told. Mr Foster then attempted to get into the passenger door, calling out "Yvonne". Mr Philliban said: "She became even more hysterical saying, 'Keep him away from me. He tried to drive me off the road.' He was screaming, 'I just want to sort this out. Will you not talk to me?' "Mrs Foster climbed into the back seat of another woman's car after

her husband drove away. Then he returned, and got into the passenger seat of the Citroën, Mr Philliban said. "I asked him to come out of the vehicle, which he did unwillingly, saying, 'She's going to tell the police everything and I'm going to go to jail.'" Mr Hickey told the jury that when interviewed by police after the incident on December 4 last year, Mr Foster said he had followed his wife after she sped away from their offices because he was worried she would have an accident. He denies one charge of dangerous driving. The case continues.

Firm beats Spanish imposition

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S cider brandy manufacturers yesterday defeated Spanish rivals trying to force them to change the name of their product. Julian Temperley, of the Somerset Cider Brandy Company, had feared his firm would be forced out of business after investing more than £500,000 in marketing Royal Somerset Cider Brandy, which is sold by the royal vintners Justerini & Brooks, and by Harrods and Fortnum & Mason. Spanish brandy makers complained to the European Union that the term brandy should be used only for spirits distilled from grapes, and their case was supported by the Scotch Whisky Association. Mr Temperley, however, was able to prove that the term "cider brandy", coined by Bertram Bulmer in the 1970s for King Offa Cider Brandy and sold through the Bulmer Cider Museum in Hereford, derived from an historic tradition of apple brandy manufacture in Britain. The claim was backed by a book dating from 1678, describing the process. Mr Temperley, 51, said yesterday: "This has secured our future into the next century."

Missing £1.50 calculator puts policeman in dock

By PAUL WILKINSON



PC Whitfield outside court with his wife, Carrie

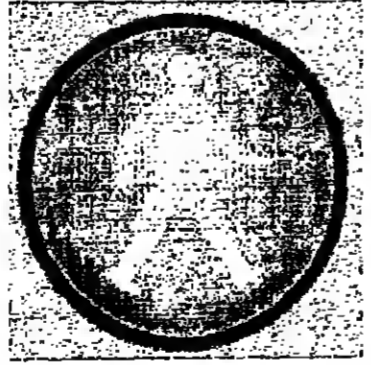
A POLICEMAN went on trial yesterday accused of stealing a calculator worth £1.50 after he was allegedly caught by a surveillance camera in his own police station. Colleagues of PC Andrew Whitfield installed the hidden camera in an office when they became irritated by a series of petty thefts. It recorded the 30-year-old married officer pocketing the calculator. PC Whitfield, who has been suspended on full pay from his £20,000-a-year job since February last year, denies theft, claiming he only bor-

rowed it to do the police football club accounts and forgot to bring it back. James Goss, for the prosecution, told Leeds Crown Court: "Considered objectively, a case of theft of such a small pocket calculator of such a low value is a minor offence... However any allegation of any crime must be considered serious and this case is no exception." PC Whitfield's job was in jeopardy if he was found guilty. PC Whitfield, of Wakefield, was serving at the time with the West Yorkshire force at Dewsbury. Mr Goss said that items had gone missing from the report-writing room and surveillance equipment was set up in

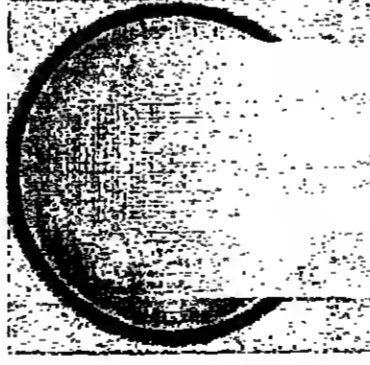
January last year. A month later the calculator disappeared from a leather wallet in the room. When the video was studied PC Whitfield was shown to be the culprit. Yet when he and other officers on his shift were asked about its disappearance at a briefing, he said nothing. He was arrested on February 15 and a search of his home found the calculator. He admitted borrowing it to do the football accounts. "Yet when checked there was one simple arithmetical error that if a calculator had been used would not have been made," Mr Goss said. The trial continues.



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Breakthrough in Stormont talks overshadowed by acrimony over loyalist plan for Bogside parade

# Violence feared as Apprentice Boys announce march

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FEARS rose yesterday of a renewed outbreak of violent sectarian clashes in Northern Ireland this weekend after loyalists announced their intention to march along a contentious section of Londonderry's historic walls.

The decision by the Apprentice Boys cast a shadow over the multiparty talks at Stormont where Unionists and nationalists finally reached agreement on an agenda early yesterday morning. The agenda, tabled jointly by the Ulster Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, downgraded discussions on the disarming of terrorists. This allowed the nine parties at the talks to outline their positions on wider issues yesterday before turning their attention to disarmament.

The Democratic Unionists and the United Kingdom Unionists made clear their anger with the new agenda.

As ministers greeted the agreement, nationalists and Unionists in Londonderry clashed over the decision of the Apprentice Boys to march around the city's walls this Saturday, including a stretch overlooking the nationalist Bogside area. The loyalists, who were banned by the RUC

from marching along the quarter-mile section in August, also told the police that they intended to parade along the walls on every Saturday until Christmas.

Dorcha MacNiallais, the spokesman for the nationalist Bogside Residents' Group, said: "I am not saying that the march won't pass off peacefully. But I am saying that in many ways people will regard this as a confrontational matter because the Apprentice Boys refused to discuss the matter with us."

William Hay, an Apprentice Boy and Democratic Unionist councillor in Londonderry, said there was little point in talking to the residents' group because they had refused to agree to a compromise over the loyalist march in August. He said: "The Apprentice Boys are exercising their civil and religious liberties to parade the historic walls of Londonderry. Surely an organisation that has shown responsibility should be allowed to celebrate their culture and their tradition in the way they have done for 300 years."

The tensions between the two sides yesterday served as a grim reminder of this summer's widespread distur-

bances between nationalists and Unionists during the loyalist marching season. Violence between the Apprentice Boys and the nationalists of the Bogside was averted in August only after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, ordered that the contentious section of the walls be sealed three days before the march.

His decision infuriated loyalists who have now carried out their threat to march along the walls to commemorate the Siege of Londonderry in 1689. If the march is allowed to go ahead, 200 marchers, from the various clubs of the Apprentice Boys, will take to the walls on Saturday morning.

The gloom of last week, after the IRA's bomb attack on the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters in Lisburn, Co Antrim, had lifted over the weekend when loyalist terrorists made clear that they would maintain their ceasefire for the moment. But the upbeat mood, which was improved by the agreement at Stormont, has been seriously undermined by the spectre of renewed clashes in Londonderry after the loyalists' decision, which many nationalists condemned as provocative.



The Apprentice Boys in Londonderry on Saturday. Their decision to march around the city's walls has cast a shadow over multiparty talks

## Signs of hope visible on long road to peace

Agreement between the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP on an agenda for talks is less a surrender to the IRA than an attempt to outflank it, Michael Gove writes

INCH by painful inch, a genuine peace process appears to be advancing. The language of "breakthrough" that accompanied the announcement of agreement between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists overstates what has been achieved.

No settlement is yet in sight in Ulster. But the accord, reached by Seamus Mallon and David Trimble goes beyond the clearing of a procedural obstacle. The agreement between Ulster's moderate Unionists and nationalists not to allow discussion over the decommissioning of weapons to impede talks may seem another concession to the IRA.

But the agreement seems less a surrender to republicanism than an outflanking. The last week has been a bad one for the IRA. Although in its

military audacity the Lisburn bomb seemed an impressive coup, politically it has undermined the republicans. It provoked a strong personal attack on Gerry Adams from John Major and also led the Irish Prime Minister to denounce the IRA as "fascist". It unsettled loyalist paramilitaries but they have, so far, not risen to the bait by ending their ceasefire.

The respect across communities for the loyalists' discipline has been matched with disillusionment among "middle Ireland" that the IRA should

have started bombing in Ulster again. Moderate Irish opinion was of disgust and concern. IRA bombs in Ulster could soon trigger loyalist bombs in the Republic. The operational weakness of the Provisionals and their waning influence has made military defeat of the IRA a possibility, in the minds of some strategists, for the first time since the Seventies.

More important is their political marginalisation. David Trimble's willingness to compromise springs from the new mood among moderate

Irish nationalists. Neither Dublin nor the SDLP seem prepared, as in the past, to allow progress to be impeded by a desire to court the IRA.

Although John Hume, the SDLP leader, hankers after another ceasefire on almost any terms, the momentum is now with Seamus Mallon, his deputy, who has expressed privately his commitment to finding common ground with Unionists.

Dublin has joined London in insisting any new IRA ceasefire is "dependable" and John Bruton last week was at pains to assuage Unionist concerns, rejecting the notion that Irish nationalists were a "hostile monolith".

There are still a great many difficult issues to resolve but if those committed to democracy concentrate on working together, then there is hope.



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## Fathers seek more time off at births

By RICHARD DUCE

THE tiredness and loneliness felt by many new fathers are aggravated by the lack of paternity leave in Britain, according to a survey published last night.

Of 420 men questioned by the Royal College of Midwives and the National Childbirth Trust, 93 per cent complained of tiredness after sleepless nights and 60 per cent of loneliness. Such feelings, the survey says, were compounded by the lack of paternity leave, which prevented them from being involved in caring for their baby.

The survey found that 47 per cent of men were not offered any paid paternity leave and 79 per cent were refused unpaid leave. Twenty three per cent were given up to three days' leave, 14 per cent received four or five days with 4 per cent getting a week or more.

The survey concludes: "Today's new fathers want to be more involved with the care of their new baby and in order to do this paid paternity care needs to be widely introduced. Tiredness, loneliness and worry are dominant feelings in new fathers with very little recognition or support."

Mary Newburn, head of policy at the NCT, said yesterday: "Fifty per cent of parents are fathers but we conveniently forget that they exist and have needs and feelings too."

The Confederation of British Industry has so far resisted calls for paternity leave to be a statutory right. A spokesman said: "Our view is that it is an issue to be best tackled individually."

## Schools boycott 'incompetent' supply teachers

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A QUARTER of secondary schools boycott teacher supply agencies because they have sent stand-ins who are incompetent or even drunk, a survey disclosed yesterday.

Teachers sacked or rejected by one agency were readily taken on by others because the law did not require them to make police checks or take references, said Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP who carried out the research.

Her call for greater regulation was backed yesterday by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which said children were being put at risk. The Government has decided not to back Mrs Hodge's Bill to license and inspect teacher agencies. Instead it brought in guidelines earlier this year recommending that thorough checks were made on supply staff.

Ty Goddard, the NSPCC's parliamentary officer, said: "This is a child protection issue and we want to emphasise those who seek to harm children are very well organised in this country and we must do everything to put in place proper checks."

Mrs Hodge's survey of Greater London secondary schools showed one in 15 lessons a week were taken by supply teachers. One in three head teachers said they had had problems with supply teachers. Some were unable to maintain discipline, while others simply "baby-sat" classes.

Many supply teachers were from overseas and lacked knowledge and experience of the national curriculum or GCSEs. Four inner-city schools with high numbers of pupils from ethnic minorities said that white teachers from South Africa had a racist attitude.

In one instance a head teacher who greeted the supply teacher as he began his lesson realised that he was drunk and ordered him off the premises. One teacher black-listed by the Department for Education and Employment had turned up running a supply agency of his own in Newcastle.

The heads believed teachers fired from other schools could use agencies as a back door to return to teaching.

TimePlan, the first and largest specialised teacher supply agency which places 700 teachers in schools every day, backed Mrs Hodge's call for tighter regulations and a bonding scheme similar to that used by approved travel agents. This would protect teachers' pay if an agency went out of business.

Tish Seaborn, managing director of TimePlan, said: "It was not long after we started that we found some of our rejects turning up in classrooms. If things go wrong, all teacher supply agencies are going to be tarred with the same brush unless we bring in regulations."

A teacher has been savagely beaten by two drunk teenagers, Mike Parsley, 30, was left with a broken thumb, a possible broken nose, damage to his eye and severe bruising after the lunchtime assault by two ex-pupils at Highbury Grove Secondary School in Islington, north London.

## Family reaps gold reward for lifetimes of adventure

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOUR brothers and sisters set an adventure record yesterday when they were presented with Duke of Edinburgh gold awards on the same day.

Jason, Scott, Tracie and Sharon McCarthy, of Shepperton, west London, embarked on their unique quest together four years ago, when they undertook a week's expedition to the Black Mountains in Wales. They reaped their reward at a ceremony at St James's Palace attended by the Duke, who launched his challenge scheme for young people 40 years ago. Since then more than 2.5 million teenagers and young adults have entered the scheme and nearly 125,000 have achieved gold standard.

A spokesman for the award scheme said yesterday: "We have had four cousins up for awards at one time, but never before four siblings. This is a first." The four were presented with their medals by Neil Fox, a disc jockey with Capital Radio.

Jason, 27, earned his gold by travelling in South-East Asia with the Operation Raleigh scheme and by winning a silver medal while competing for the British jiu-jitsu team at the world championships in Argentina. Tracie, 25, backpacked through the Mekong delta in Vietnam, learning about village life, then learnt scuba diving in Australia.

Sharon, 24, spent 18 months travelling through Asia and Australia, ending up on an expedition with venture Scouts in Switzerland. Scott, 22, has just returned home after a winter in Austria and a summer on the Greek island of Kos.

The four had the full support of their parents. Their mother, Ann, 54, has joined her children in the past on backpacking trips in Thailand and Central America. "They have all worked so hard and they have all done it independently," Mrs McCarthy said yesterday. "They had no sponsorship or help from school. We have tried to help them out financially, but they have had to meet the cost themselves. I am so pleased that all four have been able to do it while they are still young."

Sheila Smith, of the award scheme, said: "They are a quite remarkable family and thoroughly deserve their achievement."

Photograph, page 26

حکذا من الاصل

# Warning over fruit drink additives by food watchdog

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT-FLAVOURED bottled spring water contains a mix of potentially dangerous chemicals and is often loaded with sugar, the Food Commission claims today. It says that some are produced with low-cost additives and that manufacturers exploit an unjustified image of purity to push prices as high as £2.81 a litre.

Research into 24 brands published in *Food Magazine* shows that many of the most popular brands contain preservatives, colourings, artificial sweeteners and other additives. The commission says this makes a mockery of claims of purity on labels.

Ian Tuke, the commission's spokesman, said: "People with asthma are drinking some of these products and wondering why they are short of breath. The labels describe the drinks as spring water with a hint of flavouring, but this is not making clear that they are full of artificial chemicals."

Unlike mineral water, spring water has no legal definition and is usually obtained from bore holes into underground reservoirs. The

addition of flavourings means it technically becomes a soft drink, making it legal to use chemicals including artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, which costs just 1p to flavour two litres of liquid, against 12p for sugar.

Where real sugar is used, the amounts are high. Sainsbury's tangerine flavoured Crystal Spa was found to contain more than a Coca-Cola and a 250ml carton of Ribena Spring had the equivalent of seven lumps. The British Dental Association said spring water drinks containing sugar increased the risk of tooth decay.

More serious, according to the magazine, is the use of the preservative sodium benzoate in half the products tested, which some research suggests may cause breathlessness and trigger hyperactivity, even though it has been approved by the European Union.

Christine Milburn, of the British Soft Drinks Association, said members were bound by regulations which ensured the purity of the source. "We add nothing

which has not been tested and approved by all 15 member states of the EU."

An EU directive passed last July means that manufacturers have to list all additives on the label, but it will be next summer before this comes fully into force. SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of Ribena, said: "We use real sugar rather than artificial sweeteners because that is more wholesome."

Marks & Spencer adds aspartame and sodium benzoate. "These are both on the approved list of additives," a spokesman said. Sainsbury's said all the products tested by the commission were "designed to be refreshing". Company policy was to provide as much information as possible to customers. The company was now reviewing soft drink labels and would add "with sweetener" in them where applicable.

Tesco denied that its labelling was misleading. Its water was from a 100 per cent natural source flavoured with natural fruit juices and there was no added sugar, it said.

# Water companies say six new reservoirs are needed

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SIX new reservoirs will be needed in east and south England to ensure water supplies into the next century as demand rises because of global warming and an increase in single households, water companies in England and Wales said yesterday.

Their warning was issued in advance of a government report on water resources into the 21st century, due today. The report will outline the threat to rivers, wetlands and other nature sites if too much is taken for supplies.

The Department of the Environment says that demand is soaring because of the

popularity of gardening and a projected growth in new households to more than four million, as well as rising temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Professor Paul Harrington of Loughborough University, who compiled the report, predicted that domestic consumption for appliances and gardening would rise by 36 per cent by 2021, and 41 per cent if there is significant global warming.

Brian Duckworth, managing

director of Severn Trent and spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten big companies, said domestic consumers would not accept more rationing so action had to be taken now for the future.

He said that there "was a requirement for at least six new reservoirs to ensure an adequate margin of safety. They will be destined for the East and South East." Two have already been proposed in Oxfordshire and Kent.

The Environment Agency has urged the companies to tackle leaks and demand management before it will consider backing development of new, and potentially environmentally damaging, resources such as reservoirs.



The Princess with Danielle Stephenson yesterday. The seven-year-old underwent pioneering surgery in May to rectify an irregular heartbeat.

# Princess praises 'miracles' of heart surgeons

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, praised the "miracles" performed by heart specialists and the courage of their patients yesterday.

The Princess was helping to raise money for research into heart and lung disease with the help of Danielle Stephenson, from Southend, Essex. The girl is among dozens of heart patients the Princess has visited regularly at the Royal Brompton Hospital in west London.

At a reception in aid of the Heart of Britain charity, the Princess said she was "fascinated by the workings of the heart". In the foreword to a book of photographs aimed at raising money for the charity, the Princess wrote: "I have been privileged to see for myself the miracles - at the very leading edge of medicine today - performed by the teams of surgeons, doctors and nurses at Royal Brompton Hospital, whose dedication saves so many lives."

"I have been profoundly impressed, too, to see how bravely patients cope - and have been particularly touched by the courage and trust shown by Britain's little people - our children. All need our compassion, our love and our support at what is often their darkest hour."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, the joint president of Heart of Britain who invited the Princess to attend an operation at Harefield Hospital in April, praised her "inspirational" care and compassion at the reception at Harrods, which was hosted by the store's chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed. The charity book contains 300 photographs showing scenes of modern life, submitted to a competition by amateur photographers. It costs £19.99, with all profits going to the charity.

Danielle became one of the first children in Britain to undergo open treatment in May this year to hurry away abnormal electrical pathways inside her heart that were causing an irregular heartbeat.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Yates went to police

# Yates gets bail in drug case

Paula Yates, the television presenter, has been released on police bail until December while investigations continue into the alleged discovery of opium at her home, Miss Yates, 36, former wife of Bob Geldof, was arrested when she went to Chelsea police station. She is said to have maintained that any drugs found at the home she shares with the rock singer Michael Hutchence must have been planted.

# Aids man named

A hospital anaesthetist who died of an Aids-related virus, prompting hundreds of inquiries from worried patients, has been named as Gopinathan Manohar. Mr Manohar, married with a three-year-old son, was a registrar anaesthetist at the Royal Albert Edward Hospital in Wigan.

# 'Eco' evictions

Bailiffs evicted more than 50 protesters who had barricaded themselves into a self-styled eco-village set up on a 13-acre site beside the Thames in Wandsworth, southwest London, on derelict land owned by Guinness. One protester was arrested.

## CORRECTION

A report, "Call for curb on stage hypnotists" (September 23), failed to make clear that Philip Green was not the hypnotist in the stage act in which Sharon Tabari was involved, and was not connected in any way with her subsequent death. We apologise to Mr Green and his family.

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Thousands of jobs announced as Britain begins to celebrate 100 years of car-making

# Land Rover in drive to double output with sporty mini

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

LAND ROVER is to spend more than £50 million developing a mini four-wheel-drive vehicle aimed at women and young drivers, the company announced yesterday.

The sporty vehicle, which will be in production within two years, will sell for under £15,000 and help to double Land Rover production to more than 200,000 a year. Dr Walter Hasselkus, chairman of Rover Group, said yesterday that the expansion would mean 10,000 jobs for component makers supplying Land Rover's plant in Solihull, West Midlands. Another 10,000 jobs have been created for construction workers building the new assembly lines, estimated to cost £350 million.

VanDyke is spending £300 million to expand and modernise its plant at Ebbw Vale, Merseyside. The plant, which produces Astra models, 40 per cent of them for export, will have maximum output increased from 120,000 to 160,000 annually. The growth creates 200 new jobs.

News of the investment boosted the motor industry, which is celebrating 100 years of car-making at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The show opens to the public on Friday. As the show's press

previews began yesterday, the country's smallest manufacturers were talking of expansion plans. The Blackpool sports car maker TVR has doubled its workforce in more than 540 to cope with demand, while Marcos plans to double production of its powerful sports models to 200 a year.

Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "After a century of car-making in Britain, there is a buzz and confidence in our factories and design houses once again."

The most significant announcement came from Rover, which is sweeping away doubts over its future since the takeover by BMW three years ago. There were fears that BMW would cut jobs and investment, using Rover as an offshoot in supplementing production in Germany. But Dr Hasselkus said BMW was investing £300 million a year in Rover.

Land Rover made 68,000 vehicles in its first year under BMW ownership in 1993 but is scheduled to treble that number by the end of the decade. Most growth will come from the introduction of the new vehicle, which will take Land Rover into new territory, appealing to buyers who traditionally bought Japanese

vehicles. Dr Hasselkus said the new vehicle, codenamed CV40, is smaller, lighter and designed for drivers who enjoy active leisure time.

"This investment shows BMW's confidence in Rover and will inject a total of £3.5 billion into the UK automotive component industry," he said. British component companies will supply 87 per cent of the parts on the new mini Land Rover and the vehicle will be designed in-house with no help from BMW.

The line-up of new cars at the show is one of the most glamorous for years. Jaguar's £20,000 XK8 sports car heads the attractions. Lotus, TVR, Mercedes and Porsche are all showing new models. Ford disclosed the price of the Ka, its quirky city car that goes on sale this month at £7,300 to £8,100.



A prototype of the "greener" black cab, which can run on unleaded petrol and compressed natural gas

## Green cab cuts down on city pollution

A POSSIBLE successor to the black cab, running on petrol and gas instead of diesel, was launched yesterday.

Drivers of Asquith Motor Carriage's new version will flick a dashboard switch to change from unleaded petrol to compressed natural gas, radically cutting exhaust pollution. The company

aims to be ready to launch a fuelless electric model by 2003. The system is being developed by Zeus Energies, which is looking for £600,000 backing to speed development.

The Asquith taxi has six seats and a suspension which lowers the floor to wheelchair users. Instead of seatbelts, bars containing airbags swing down in front of passengers.

Yesterday Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, unveiled a project to use electric cars and vans in Coventry to see if they could solve pollution problems.

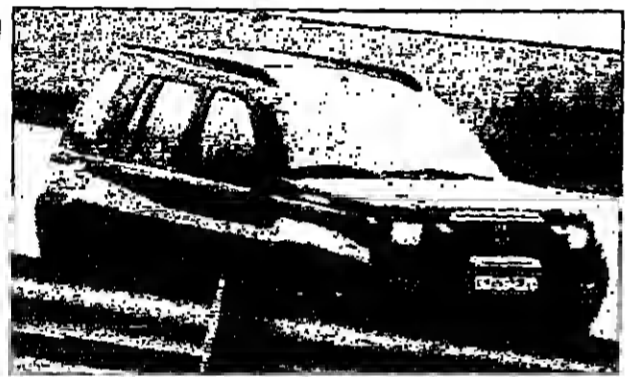
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The mini 4WD takes Land Rover into new territory

## Ford ad banned after complaints

By CAROL MIDGLEY

A FORD advertisement has been withdrawn after complaints from mental health charities that it trivialised schizophrenia. The radio commercial for the Ford Courier van featured the comedian Alexei Sayle as a customer who was "in two minds" about whether to buy the vehicle.

Sayle said: "You know, sometimes I think I'm schizophrenic... half of me wants a big van, half of me wants a small van. That's the trouble with both of me."

Fifteen complaints were received by the Radio Authority, including protests from the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Scottish Association for Mental Health. The charities said the commercial "misrepresented

and trivialised this serious and often misunderstood illness". Complaints from health workers and relatives of schizophrenics said that the lighthearted treatment was offensive.

The advertisement was broadcast on a number of local radio stations and a national station, Talk Radio. A Ford spokesman said: "We withdrew the advert as soon as we received complaints. We did not mean to offend anyone. Perhaps the advertising agency was a little bit too far this time."

In February, Ford apologised to four black workers and paid them compensation after white faces were imposed on their bodies in a photograph for a sales brochure.

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SEE PAGE 10  
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# Never mind quantity, look for quality

**HILLINGDON** Hospitals' refusal to accept patients aged 75 referred by their doctors illustrates the problem facing the National Health Service.

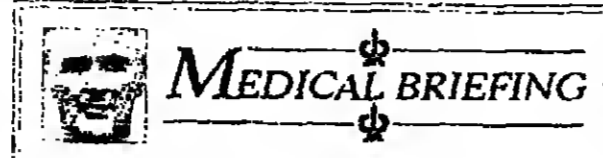
At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday John Major, replying to the Labour leader Tony Blair, told MPs that the "acid test" of whether the health service was working well was the number of patients treated, and went on to discuss the length of time spent on waiting lists. But this is only part of the story, and shows a lack of understanding of what people expect from the National Health Service.

What matters is not the total number of patients treated but the number treated efficiently, and that patients and their families should feel that

the best possible treatment has been available.

At the time of China's Cultural Revolution, Mao Tse-tung instituted the "barefoot doctors" system. The regime planned to save money by using technicians trained in a few particular skills rather than providing primary care dispersed by doctors who had had a general medical education.

The barefoot doctors would, it was reasoned, usually be able to provide enough help to tide their patients over the commonly occurring, but very sinister, complaints which afflict those in the usual surgery queue. The patients for whom nature and the technicians could not find a cure would be only a minority, many of whom might have died anyway, and



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

on they did not, in an authoritarian society's view, amount to a large problem.

Any change to the National Health Service which gives greater emphasis to primary care has therefore to be very carefully analysed to make certain that the improved service being given will be better at satisfying the patient's needs and not merely at saving money for the Exchequer. Encouraging greater use of better-trained nurses

and pharmacists is obviously a cheaper option than using doctors who have had to spend six to ten years being educated. Greater reliance on ancillary staff might be financially desirable but it is doubtful if patients will always be able to get a broadly based opinion during their consultation from somebody whose training is by its very nature limited.

All experienced doctors know that patients might

come in to see them ostensibly to discuss one problem while they have another that is disturbing them which they are too frightened to mention. This will only be uncovered during the course of the surgery chat but might well be missed if that chat is with somebody whose medical education is limited.

Whether doctors will enjoy working from a supermarket remains to be seen. Having doctors employed by supermarkets and at other centres, is certainly a simple answer to problems of the cost of inner-city surgeries, but whether suggesting they practise from spare counter-space in a supermarket is likely to keep British medicine in the forefront of international research is more doubtful.

A problem also exists in

finding the right type of nurse to become a nurse practitioner. Last year even teaching hospitals found it difficult to recruit nurses of the calibre needed to do their present jobs.

The appalled reaction of any patients I have spoken to about the Hillingdon incident demonstrates that for all the political talk of values, the value that people place on decent care for the elderly transcends any discussion about cost.

It is unlikely that patients are going to be satisfied with the thought that they can get a quick opinion about their sore throat at the local shop if granny is to be sacrificed in Hillingdon because she is too old to warrant the cost of a bed, whether in the hospital or in the local community.

## Doctors offered freedom to innovate in White Paper proposals

# Supermarkets may run in-store GP surgeries

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

**SUPERMARKETS** will be free to run in-store doctors' surgeries under proposals to deregulate GP care announced yesterday.

The White Paper unveiled by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, would allow outside organisations to contract with health authorities to provide care. At present, all GPs have individual employment contracts with health authorities.

These could be NHS trusts, commercial organisations, supermarket chains. The GPs would be salaried employees working fixed hours.

Practices could also take responsibility for providing services, hiring GPs on salaries to perform specific tasks. Patients would still be on a named doctor's list and the service would be provided by the NHS, but responsibility for running it would rest with the organisation.

Supermarket chains which are looking at the possibility of running GP surgeries alongside pharmacies, in supermarkets and shopping malls have yet to be convinced that they are a workable proposition. Safeway said it would

like the freedom to offer additional services but is not certain that a supermarket would be the ideal environment for clinics, where patients need to speak in confidence to their doctors.

"You cannot treat patients as if they are waiting at the deli counter," said a spokeswoman. "We do have a role in the water already. We may look at ways to expand on that if we could add extra services."

Mr Dorrell said the aim was to give GPs greater freedom in the way they provided care. They were being encouraged to take part in an experiment to devise the surgery of the future.

"My aim is to provide choice and opportunity for those GPs and dentists who want to develop and improve services to pilot their ideas. Those who are happy with the status quo will be free to continue on the present basis," he said.

Currently only individual GPs, who are self-employed and must buy or rent premises, can contract to provide care. This has created problems in the inner cities where property prices are high and some doctors have



Dorrell: said aim was to provide opportunity

The changes, which also affect pharmacists and optometrists, will be framed in a Bill to be outlined in the Queen's Speech next week. They follow a discussion document issued in June based on a six month "listening exercise" by Gerald Mahone, the Health Minister, who travelled the country talking to doctors.

The British Medical Association said the biggest impact of the changes was likely to be in the inner cities. "These changes are most attractive for those who want a salaried service and for the most adventurous GPs who want to fly new ideas in an entrepreneurial way," said a spokesman. "It is about letting a thousand flowers bloom but we will have to see whether that turns into a cultural revolution."

The White Paper makes no mention of cottage hospitals, which had been touted by ministers earlier in the year as a way of bringing medical care closer to patients. Yesterday, Mr Dorrell told the Commons that the need for such hospitals would have to be assessed locally in the same way as any other NHS unit.

Peter Riddell, page 14



David Brook says that the centre at Victoria station deals with an average of 25 walk-in patients a day

## Station doctors on a fast track for expansion

By TIM JONES

TWO months after opening Britain's first private walk-to surgery, opposite platform one at Victoria station in London, its backers are negotiating for five further sites to provide instant care to commuters and shoppers.

David Brook, of the Victoria Medicentre, admitted yesterday that the concept of instant, no-appointment treatment was so new that it was still a gamble. But he was confident that, once the facility had become more widely known, it would become an essential service for business people who could not afford to wait for days to see their doctors.

Apart from offering treatment and immediate consultation for people stepping off the trains, the centre has also provided invaluable aid to the seriously ill. Mr Brook said at least one man who had been suffering from a heart attack said he owed his life to them, while another was saved from the immediate and serious effects of diabetes.

At present the centre, which

is served by five doctors and three nurses, deals with about 25 walk-in patients a day. They can vary from people suffering from a simple cut to more serious cases who are referred to hospital specialists. Charges vary from £32 for a basic consultation to £250 for a complete health screening. Other services range from £5 for dressings to £37 for emergency roentgenography.

Mr Brook said: "We are confident enough of the need for the service to be planning another centre for Victoria and for three other stations in London. We are also hoping to open two centres in major provincial cities."

One area in which the centres hope to profit is to the provision of vaccination services to commuters travelling to Gatwick for their holiday flights. The company also hopes it can interest local businesses in using the centres for health checks on their employees. It offers an instant service without the delays normally associated with such procedures.

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### Zambezi explorers survive close encounters on record paddle through heart of Africa

# Kayak pair dodge rocks and crocs for 1,700 miles

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO British adventurers are today celebrating a record-breaking kayak expedition from the source of the Zambezi River to the sea. They fled from a man-eating crocodile and braved some of the world's most dangerous white-water rapids during their three-month journey.

Justin Matterson, 33, and Rupert FitzMaurice, 31, both suffered from malaria as they paddled 1,675 miles from northwest Zambia to the magnificent sand-barred river delta on the Mozambique coast along the Indian Ocean.



adventure, has so far raised £7,000 towards a £25,000 target for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Both men are now recuperating in Harare, Zimbabwe, and are due to give a talk on their experiences at the Royal Geographical Society in January.

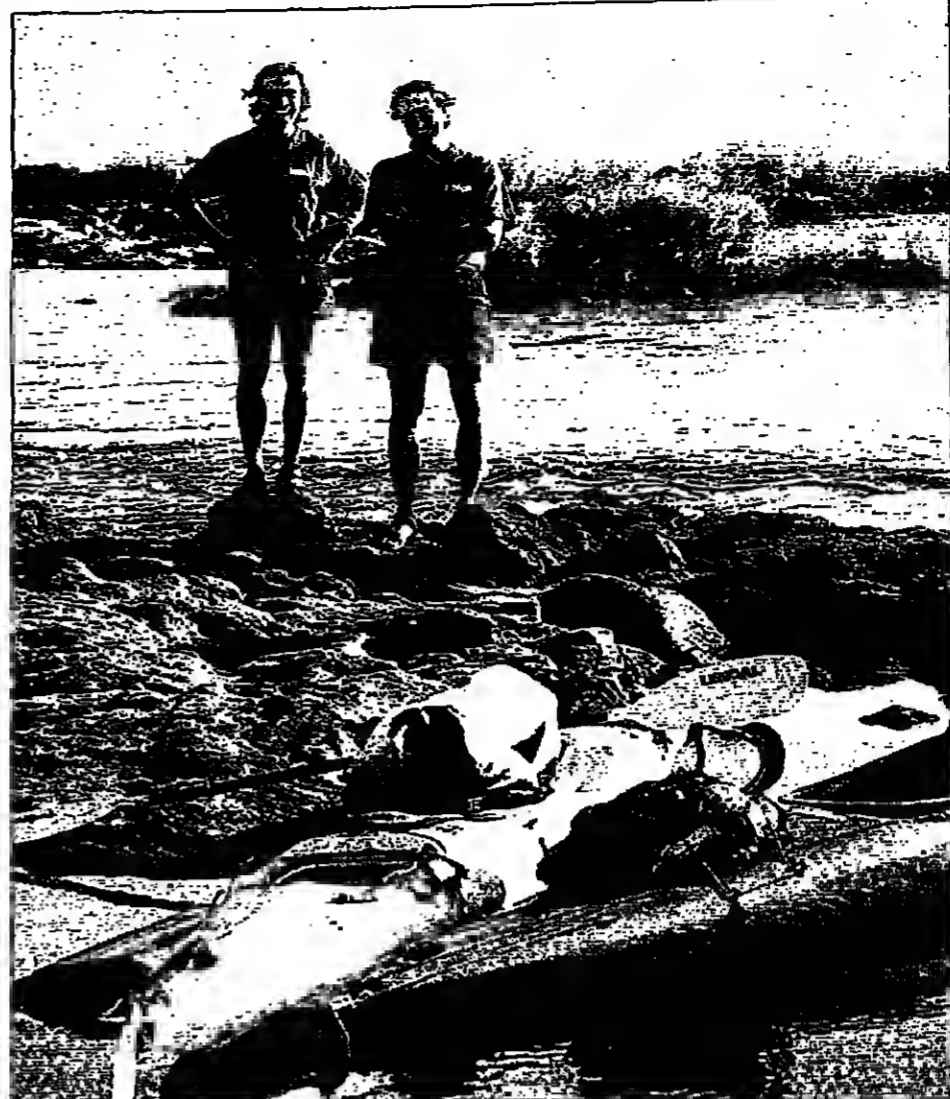
thought he had hit a submerged tree but when he turned around, he had the shock of his life. "He saw what he considered to be the biggest crocodile head he has ever seen. It was resting on the kayak at a slight angle, looking towards him so you could see his teeth. His head appeared to be grinning. Fitz was in a hell of a state."

safety. "I don't know why he didn't go for Fitz again. With a croc that size, you would have no chance."

It was not until this century that the source of the 2,200-mile Zambezi was located in a Zambian swamp near the border with Angola and Zaire. For nearly 40 miles the pair followed the stream on foot, then made a detour around Angola, on Foreign Office advice, and picked up the river again at the Chavuma Falls in Zambia.

"On three occasions we startled hippos on the bank," Mr Matterson said. "They hurl themselves into the river and head for deep water. It is quite an adrenalin-pumping, fear-inducing moment. Hippos munch more people than any other animal. It is like being charged by a Buick."

"When we got to the sea we were silent for a good few hours. Basically we have kayaked through the heart of Africa."



Rupert FitzMaurice, left, and Justin Matterson on the banks of the Zambezi

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sentence on driver increased

A 15-month jail sentence on a speeding car driver who killed a pizza delivery boy was increased to 3½ years by the Court of Appeal. The judges held that the sentence passed on Richard French, 21, of Feltham, west London, for causing the death of 18-year-old Howard Petty was unduly lenient. The incident, in June, occurred hours after French had been freed on probation for a "road rage" offence.

### Rail firm strike

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union will hold the first of a series of one-day strikes at First Engineering, a Scottish rail maintenance firm, on October 24, over the sacking of a member in a dispute over washing facilities.

### Breton award

A linguist from Wales has been honoured by Brittany for promoting the Breton language. Rita Williams, 57, of Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, is the first Briton to receive the Ermine Collar, a Breton cultural award.

### Life for rapist

A man who abducted a woman in Aberdeen and drove her 125 miles to rape her at his home in Edinburgh was jailed for life at the city's High Court. The judge recommended that George Clark, 35, serve at least 12 years.

### Customer care

The people of Cardigan in West Wales raised £5,000 to send their postman, Michael Glover, to visit his grandfather in New Zealand after Mr Glover, 28, was found to be suffering from cancer. He has had to stop working.

### Sickness at work

British workers take an average of 1.2 sick days a year, according to a survey by the insurers Legal and General. Forty per cent claimed never to have taken a day off. The CBI however said that the true figure was eight days a year.

## Morrell's courage inspires hostage's girlfriend to fly to Kashmir

By EMMA WILKINS



Mosely, encouraged by Morrell and McCarthy

THE girlfriend of a British student kidnapped in Kashmir more than a year ago is to fly to India to search for him. There has been no contact with the kidnapers of Paul Wells for ten months but Catherine Mosely has refused to give up hope that he is alive.

Mr Wells, 25, a photographic student from Blackburn, was kidnapped while the couple were trekking in the north Indian state in July last year. Miss Mosely, 27, will leave for New Delhi later

this week. She has been encouraged to keep her hopes up by Jill Morrell, who campaigned for more than four years for the release of John McCarthy from Beirut. Miss Mosely, from Norwich, said: "I know nothing for certain. Paul could be dead, but I choose to believe he is still alive. There are times when the future looks so bleak, but I try to be optimistic. I have been living two lives: things go on normally, but this is always in the back of my mind."

She will travel to India with Bob Wells, her boyfriend's

father. They hope to make contact with the group that is holding him and three other tourists: Keith Mangan, an electrician from Middlesbrough; Donald Hutchings, an American; and Dirk Hasert, a German.

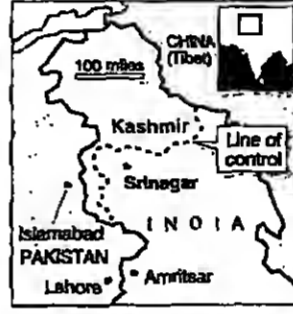
Indian police believe that they were kidnapped by al Faran, a Kashmiri separatist group. A Norwegian hostage was found beheaded last year.

Families of the hostages, including Miss Mosely and Julie Mangan, Mr Mangan's wife, have spoken to Miss Morrell, Mr McCarthy and

Terry Waite, who was also taken hostage in Beirut. James Bowman, who runs the campaign to free the hostages, said: "Cath and Julie Mangan have taken heart from Jill and her determination not to give up hope and to keep campaigning for John's release."

Mr Bowman said the aim of Miss Mosely's trip was to "establish some sort of contact with the captors, if only to establish that the men are still alive."

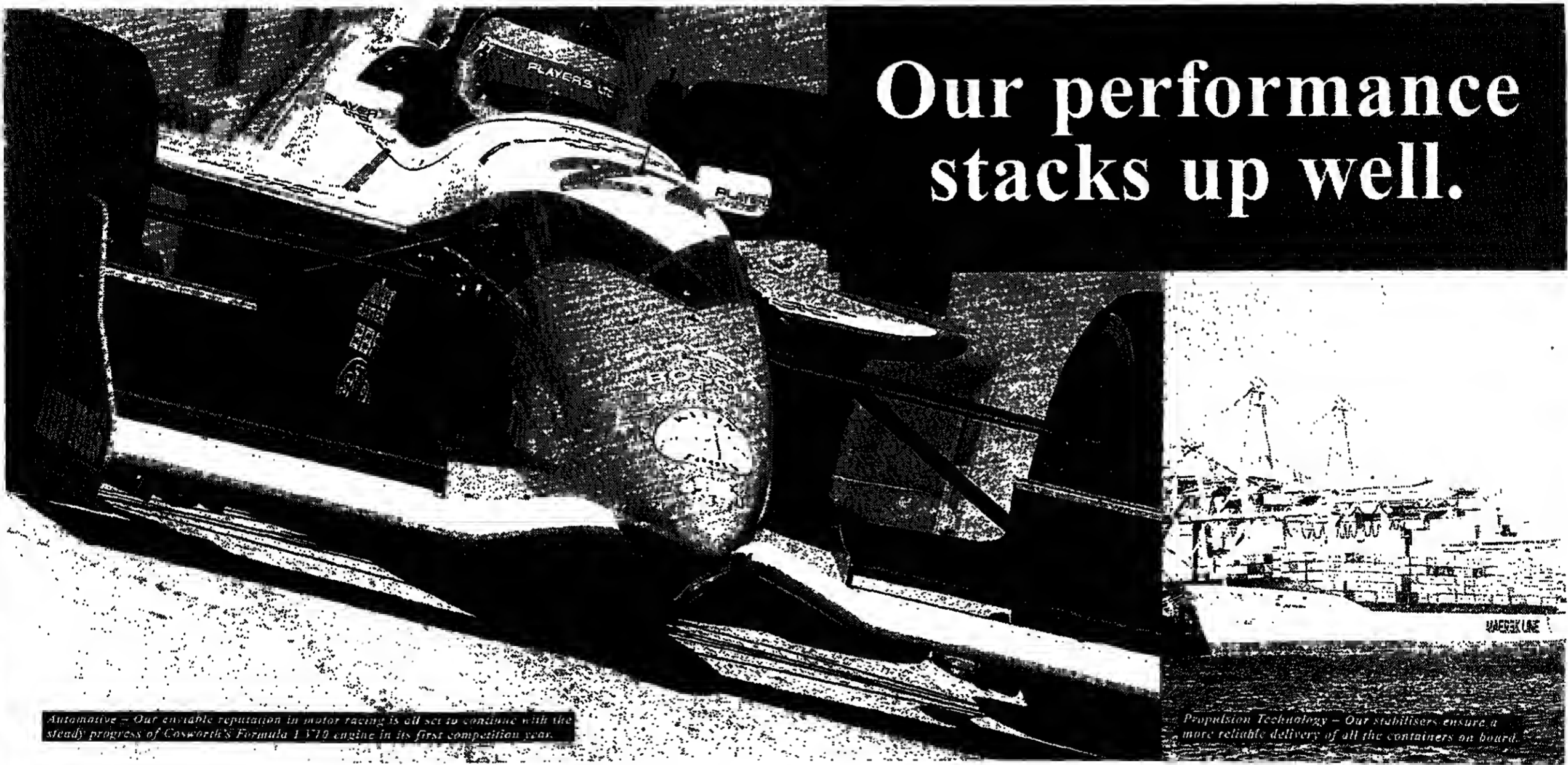
Miss Mosely and Mr Wells will make contact with diplomats at the British High



Commission in New Delhi before going to the Srinagar valley in Kashmir, where the hostages were taken. High Commission staff may accompany them, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

company them, a Foreign Office spokesman said. Al Faran is thought to operate from a Pakistani-controlled area, north of the line of control drawn by the United Nations. Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, was asked by John Major to help to find information about the hostages when she visited Britain two weeks ago.

On November 14, 500 days after the men were captured, a group called Hostages in Kashmir will be launched to help to draw public attention to their plight.



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### Luftwaffe damns much-vaunted Fulcrum fighter

# Russia's Cold War air threat was 'hopeless'

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Russia's prize combat aircraft, described by Nato as a lethal threat to Western air forces during the Cold War, is almost impossible to navigate and hopeless in medium-range air-to-air combat, according to a new assessment.

The MiG29 Fulcrum was one of several Russian fighter aircraft whose potential was used by the West to justify the development of more advanced combat jets, such as the Eurofighter and the American F22.

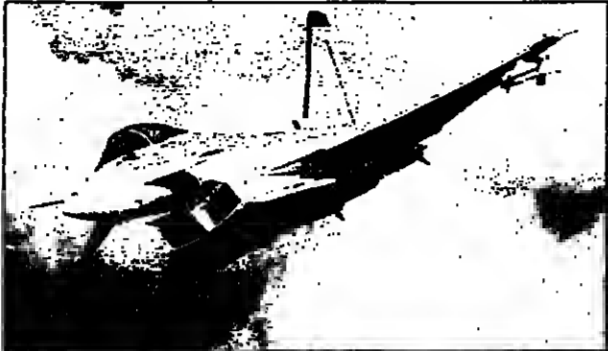
Lieutenant-Colonel Johann Koeck of the Luftwaffe, commander of the only Western squadron to fly MiG29s, said that the Russian fighter was almost unusable in all but a handful of operational scenarios.

*Janet's Defence Weekly* reported that Colonel Koeck, squadron commander of the Luftwaffe's Fighter Wing 73, which has been flying MiG29s transferred from the then East German Air Force for five years, was unimpressed. "Colonel Koeck's criticisms are particularly damning given the much-vaunted capabilities ascribed to the fighter by Western threat-analysis prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991," the report says.

Colonel Koeck said that he found the aircraft unreliable. Its radar, he said, was difficult



The MiG29 has been flown by a Luftwaffe squadron



The Eurofighter, developed as a response to MiG29

to maintain and lacked adequate look-down shoot-down capability. However, in close combat, the MiG29 was the "best of the best" because of its superb aerodynamics, infrared search and track system and its All Archer dogfight missile.

The MiG29 entered service in 1983 and was acquired by the Luftwaffe after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The

Luftwaffe's MiG29s are due to be phased out around 2005 and replaced by the Eurofighter, which is a joint British, German, Italian and Spanish project.

While developing the Eurofighter, which will cost Britain more than £15 billion, the Ministry of Defence compared the RAF's future requirements for a combat aircraft with the capabilities of the MiG29, the

Su37 Flanker, the Su31 and possible future derivatives.

Following the critical comments about the MiG29, sources at British Aerospace, which is developing the Eurofighter at its factory at Warton in Lancashire, said that the MiG29 was never seen as the principal threat to Nato air forces. They said that the Russians had improved the MiG29 since the Luftwaffe had acquired their planes and stressed that it was unlikely the former East German air force had been given the best of the MiG29s.

The main threat faced by the Eurofighter would be a derivative of the Su37 Flanker, the sources said. The Flanker, like the MiG29, is being sold by the Russians around the world and could "end up in potentially hostile hands". The latest version of the Su37 was displayed at the Farnborough airshow last month and proved to be one of the stars. With its twin movable nozzles, the Russian pilot was able to stop the plane in a vertical position for several seconds before rolling backwards in a somersault.

Despite the Su37's extraordinary acrobatics, the British Aerospace sources said that the Eurofighter, which is due to come into service with the RAF from about 2002, would still have the edge because of its acceleration, its manoeuvrability and its superior weapon systems.



## Panzers pull out of Wales

German tank crews bade farewell to the people of Pembrokeshire with a parade yesterday as they departed from the training ranges they have used since 1961. A veteran Mk1 Leopard tank was unveiled to stand in commemoration at Castlemartin as senior officers from the British and German Armies attended a church service and said final goodbyes. About 84,000 German troops have

trained at Castlemartin and some lived locally with their families. Nearly 150 soldiers married Welsh women during the Germans' 35-year association with the area. The Panzers' withdrawal comes after defence cuts in the German Army. German rearmament and the end of the Cold War have also meant that tank crews can now train closer to home. In the former East Germany, Lieutenant Colonel Jörg Schlobinski, liaison officer at the base, said yesterday: "We're sad to be leaving because of the friendliness we have found here."

## Irish minister faces claims of infected blood cover-up

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL NOONAN, the Irish Health Minister, will face opposition allegations in the Dail this afternoon of a cover-up on how 1,600 women were infected with hepatitis C. One woman has since died.

The women were infected 20 years ago by contaminated products from the Blood Transfusion Services Board, the state blood bank, given to overcome the potentially fatal risks of pregnant women with rhesus positive blood having a rhesus negative baby. In such instances, the mother's antibodies can kill the child.

But many batches of anti-D immunoglobulin used to prevent the problem came from a woman later discovered to be infected with hepatitis C, which can cause liver failure. The female plasma donor was jaundiced but tested negative for hepatitis A and B; hepatitis C was not formally identified until 1989 and the blood bank



Noonan said inquiry would not be ignored

continued using her blood. However, it made no attempt to contact the infected women until 1993, when a doctor in Cork established a link between anti-D and hepatitis C. Bridgid McCole, 54, a mother of 12, died last month, days before her legal action against the Irish Government and the

blood bank came before the High Court. Within hours of her death, her family was offered an out-of-court settlement for £175,000. The blood bank admitted liability and apologised.

Other sufferers had already settled with a government tribunal, which paid between £200,000 and £500,000 without admitting liability. Ireland is the only country in the world to have established a compensation procedure for hepatitis C victims; there are tens of thousands of sufferers in Britain and France, but liability has never been admitted.

Mr Noonan, who announced last week that a tribunal of inquiry would be set up, said there would be no attempts to dismiss its findings. "When the judge reports after the judicial inquiry... let the chips fall wherever the chips fall."

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## Retrial for Salvation Army case

Stuart Ford, 45, a financial adviser from Finchley, north London, accused of stealing £1.2 million from the Salvation Army, is to be retried. A new hearing was ordered after a jury at Southwark Crown Court cleared him of two of 23 counts of theft but failed to reach verdicts on the remainder. He allegedly stole the cash during an investment programme.

## Moore sale

Works by Degas, Manet, Renoir, Vuillard and Courbet, belonging to the Henry Moore Foundation, are expected to be sold for about £1.5 million at Sotheby's in London on December 3.

## Teenagers held

Two 14-year-olds have been arrested after an attack on a 90-year-old widow as she returned home from church in Ealing, west London, on Sunday. Nellie Maschke lost her sight in one eye.

## Sunday drinking

Polls to decide whether pubs can open on Sundays will be held on November 6 in two Welsh counties. Gwynedd and Rhondda Cynon Taff. Licensing laws allow a poll to be held every seven years.

## FA medal stolen

Burglars stole a 1902 FA Cup medal from William Barnes, 85, of Bath. It was awarded to his father, W.E. Barnes, who scored the winner when Sheffield United beat Southampton 2-1 at Crystal Palace.

# HP's new NetServer E-Series means goodbye to the desktop PC server.



A lot of business people think that real network servers are not for them. You see them as more complicated to use than desktop PC servers, with features you don't need and a price you can't afford.

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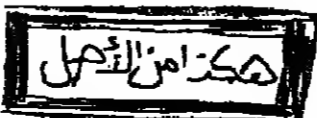
that our NetServer is dedicated to being able to serve you at all times. Such reliability is only to be expected from Hewlett-Packard - one of the world's leading server vendors.

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Former SAS officer pips First Sea Lord to maintain army tradition

# General Guthrie wins top post in Services

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Sir Charles Guthrie, head of the Army, was confirmed yesterday as the next Chief of the Defence Staff, despite a campaign by a former Royal Navy chief to save the present First Sea Lord promoted to Britain's top military appointment.

Sir Charles, a sharp but fable commander, will succeed Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge when he retires next April. The appointment, which was announced yesterday after approval from the Queen, will mean that Sir Charles will have followed directly in the career footsteps of Sir Peter for seven posts. He took over from Sir Peter as Chief of the General Staff in March 1994.

Sir Charles, a former SAS officer, will be the first Chief of the Defence Staff not to be promoted to a five-star rank. Instead of moving up to field marshal he will remain a general, although the Ministry of Defence will be recommending to the Top Salaries Review Body that he should be paid on a higher scale than his fellow four-star generals.

Sir Peter Inge earns £124,639 a year, rising to £125,850 in December. By comparison, General Guthrie earns £100,255 from his present post, rising to £101,230 in December.

The only other shortlisted candidate was Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. The two other names on the original list were Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Force, and Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff.

Senior MoD sources said that Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, had spent several months considering the shortlist. They said the Navy had "a very strong candidate indeed". However,



Inge to retire next April after three years in post

Defence Staff, said Mr Portillo was wrong not to appoint Sir Jock. The late Lord Fieldhouse was the last Navy man to hold the post in 1988.

Lord Hill-Norton said: "I don't know General Guthrie - I'm told he's a first-rate chap - but Jock Slater is a star. His experience should have weighed strongly in his favour. But Mr Portillo seems to think that most of the action is in Bosnia and Northern Ireland and so it's right to appoint someone from the Army. I think it's bad news for the country and for the Navy."

General Guthrie, 57, has a reputation for being a charming and smooth operator who has acquired the necessary Whitehall skills to deal with ministers and civil servants.

He was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 and became a troop commander with 22nd Special Air Service Regiment seven years later.

He returned to the Welsh Guards in 1970 to command a mechanised infantry company



General Sir Charles Guthrie is well versed in the political skills needed to deal with ministers

before attending the Staff College at Camberley. He commanded the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in 1977 in Berlin and Northern Ireland.

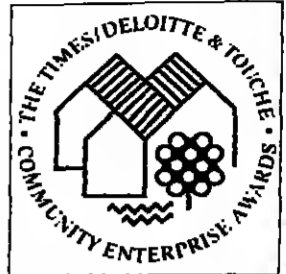
His rise through the Army led to him becoming Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 1987 and took command of the 1st British Corps in October

1989. He was promoted to Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine in 1992. He is married to Kate and has two sons, David and Andrew. He is a keen skier, horseman and tennis player.

The name of the next Chief of the General Staff will be announced next month.

# Contest seeks schemes that enrich local communities

By JOHN YOUNG



THE eleventh annual Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte & Touche, are launched today with prizes worth more than £20,000. Their aim is to publicise outstanding examples of local people working with companies in their neighbourhoods to establish amenities and improve the quality of life.

Among the achievements of previous award winners are job creation and the establishment of businesses employing local people. They have set up housing co-operatives and built accommodation for the homeless; others have improved the environment and developed community facilities ranging from kindergartens in adult education classes.

Last year's overall winner was the Old Chapel Housing and Community Trust in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. In the former mining town hit by 25 per cent unemployment, the trust has established four houses and a hostel for homeless young people. It has won support from charities, businesses and local authorities.

The awards will be made regionally. Two winners will be found in each of eight English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, one for projects with a turnover of less than £50,000 and one for those above. Entries are invited from individuals, community organisations, businesses, local authorities or any other group for projects completed between January 1, 1991, and October 1 this year. The closing date is December 31.

The regional award winners will be announced next March and the Charles Douglas-Home Award for the overall winner will be presented in May.

Entry forms may be obtained from The Community Enterprise Awards, Business in the Community, 44 Baker Street, London W1M 1DH.

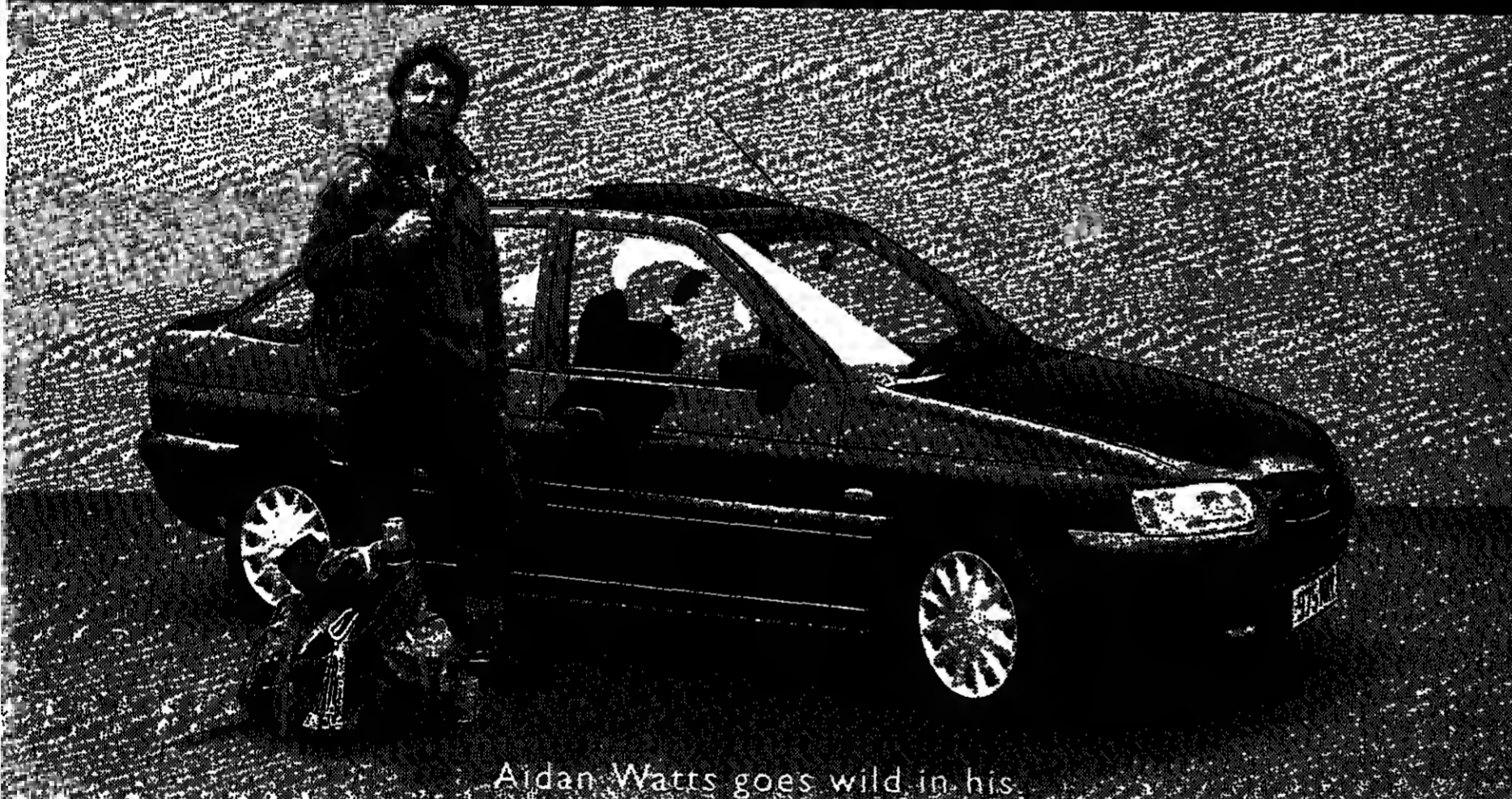
A message from HRH the Prince of Wales, chairman of the awards

Having been involved in the ten years the awards have been running, I have come to recognise the vital importance of local community involvement in the design and management of programmes and facilities to meet local needs. Over the years the term "community enterprise" has become commonplace and its contribution to social and economic regeneration irreplaceable.

The awards have brought national acknowledgement to a number of local heroes and heroines otherwise known as community entrepreneurs. These individuals have helped to transform the communities and cities in which they live.



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# Pro-Europe Tories mock Goldsmith's 'Napoleonic ego'

By James Landale, Political Reporter

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH has a Napoleonic ego and his Referendum Party is nothing but a rump of disgruntled Tories and neo-nationalists, according to his pro-European critics.

The attack comes in a pamphlet by the Bow Group, a Tory research organisation that has made the first detailed analysis of Sir James's speech to businessmen in June, known as the Newcastle Manifesto. It will be published on Friday, as the Referendum Party prepares for its conference on Saturday.

*Napoleon or Ross Perot?* is written by Michael Welsh, the former Tory MEP who is chief executive of the Action Centre for Europe. Mr Welsh says that Sir James is more dangerous than the maverick US presidential candidate and bears greater comparison to the French emperor. So exaggerated is Sir James's claim to have to a special rapport with the European people that "there are signs of an ego of Napoleonic dimensions".

He accuses Sir James of misinterpreting the European Union's history, saying that his "superficially plausible" case for a referendum on Europe is aimed at "stirring

the patriotic instincts of the British people" and does not stand up to critical analysis.

The Referendum Party has no political programme, but merely a collection of populist slogans. "This is single-issue politics at its most extreme. The extreme naivety of Goldsmith's proposals for the future of the EU suggests that he has failed to think through his positions in any details."

He continues: "Given that lack of substance, the Referendum Party is likely to prove as ephemeral as any other single-issue protest movement and unlikely to make any real impact in a general election."

Yesterday his analysis was backed by Edwina Currie and other pro-European Tory MPs. Mrs Currie, MP for Derbyshire South, said that she was delighted that the party was finally exposing Sir James and urged Brian Mawhinney, the chairman, to make clear that Tories could not be members of two parties.

"Sir James is a malcontent, bored and rich man, set on making mischief," she said.

"His party can do a lot of damage both to the Conservative Party and our country's position in Europe."

Mr Welsh rejects Sir

James's claims that the British people were conned into joining the EEC by a conspiracy of the political elite. He says it was always made clear that EEC membership would involve some loss of sovereignty and had a political, as well as economic, dimension. He gives warning of the "hazards of a plebiscite" in a mature democracy and asks why Sir James, who backed EU membership in the original 1975 referendum, should now distrust that judgment.

He also rejects Sir James's claim that the European Commission's annual £200 million budget for "pro-European propaganda" outweighs his own £20 million. The £200 million, he says, pays for the European equivalent of Hansard, Parliament's official report, and other formal documents, not pro-Brussels advertising.

Mr Welsh accuses the Referendum Party of failing to address the serious consequences of Britain leaving the EU and dismisses the suggestion that Britain could rejoin the European Free Trade Area. He says that Sir James's planned reforms of the EU — to strengthen the Council of Ministers and emasculate the European Commission, Par-



liament and Court — demonstrated a "profound misunderstanding of the role of the institutions and a cavalier disregard for the realities of inter-state co-operation".

He rejects Sir James's charge that the Government lost its economic independ-

ence under the Maastricht treaty. Mr Welsh says the sovereignty was lost under the Single European Act, signed by Margaret Thatcher, which ensured that Europe's economies were run as a common concern. "There can be no single market if each partner

pursues an independent economic policy regardless of the interests of the others."

EU membership without the prospect of any common interests would, he said, be like "joining a rugby club with the intention of playing association football".

# Labour enjoying a free ride in healthcare debate

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Labour cannot lose on health and the Tories cannot win. No matter that the Major Government has spent an additional £7.7 billion, or 13 per cent in real terms, since the last election on the NHS. Or that the only specific pledge that the Prime Minister has made for the next Parliament is to increase the health budget each year by more than the inflation rate.

The public is unimpressed. It does not believe the health service is safe in Tory hands. According to MORI polls for *The Times*, Labour has a bigger lead on health than on any other issue. A poll in July showed that more than half the public believed that Labour had the best policies on healthcare, and barely a tenth thought the Tories did.

This is why Tony Blair picked the issue for his first confrontation with John Major at Prime Minister's Questions for three months. His carefully crafted soundbite that people "know you cannot ever trust the Tories on the NHS" was timed to reinforce recent stories about NHS financial problems and the decision by Hillingdon Hospital to take no more GP referrals of patients over 75. It was also intended to offset the impact of the Government's White Paper on primary healthcare, which was broadly welcomed yesterday despite opposition worries about GPs being employed by supermarkets or pharmaceutical companies.

Some Tory strategists are fatalistic. The famous leaked memorandum two years ago by John Major, former Tory deputy chairman, argued that ministers should avoid drawing the public's attention to health. Stephen Dorrell does not agree. The main changes were already in place when he took over in July 1995 and he believes there is scope for the Tories to stress the consequent gains. Despite talk of neutralising Labour's advantage on health, the Tories' realistic aim is to narrow the gap — in the same way that Gordon Brown can hope only to reduce, rather than eliminate, public scepti-

cism about Labour pledges not to raise taxes.

Labour's strength in the polls on health has not been matched by a similar strength on policy. The party has a free ride when hospitals have to cut back, or even halt, routine admissions because of financial problems outside their control and when people have to wait hours in accident and emergency departments or be moved around the country. These complaints are real.

Mr Blair can protest about the sins of the internal market, the waste, the mushrooming of managers, and hospitals competing against each other, but Labour has failed to offer a credible alternative. Its pre-manifesto document in July hid the real issues behind talk of developing a "collaborative, long-term approach", though the purchaser-provider split of the reformed structure would be retained under the new terms of planning and providing care. No doubt administrative costs can be cut but the much trumpeted "early" pledge to save £100 million in order to treat 100,000 patients is a gimmicky sleight of hand, when the Tories are spending £1 billion more in the current year. A Blair government might, at best, be able only to alleviate the worst anomalies of the internal market. It would continue the thrust of the NHS reforms with little, if no more, money than currently planned. Labour has so far not matched Mr Major's pledge on health spending.

Mr Blair always claims he will not promise more than he can deliver. But by criticising the Tory health record in such sweeping terms, and hence raising expectations that a Labour government could make a big difference, he risks doing exactly that. The public may always regard Labour as better custodians of the health service than the Tories, but miracle cures are not available.

PETER RIDDELL

# Blair adviser proposes scheme for higher pensions

By Jill Sierman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour leader's social security adviser has put forward a plan to transform the welfare state that would mean lower basic tax rates but higher national insurance contributions.

In a document published today Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, has suggested changes to increase pensions and provide incentives for the unemployed to find work. His proposals aim to provide a guaranteed pension of two thirds of earnings and a care pension to pay

for residential or nursing care. But all those earning more than £100 a week would be required to contribute to a second pension scheme.

Mr Field, appointed in July to advise Mr Blair on tax and benefit reforms, proposes a 5p starting rate of tax and a 19p basic rate offset by higher national insurance contributions. Those earning less than about £15,600 a year would make a net gain, while those earning more would pay more.

People with salaries of more than £30,000 would pay £500 a year more, while those earning £60,000 would pay about £1,000 more. Those

earning £10,000 would gain about £150 a year, but a small group of low-paid workers would pay more because they would be paying national insurance for the first time.

Although Mr Blair might be attracted to Mr Field's radical thinking, he is unlikely to agree to measures that would hit the middle classes and those earning less than the average wage — about £17,000. Yesterday his office merely said: "As always with Frank, he has made a stimulating contribution to the debate on this very important issue."

But Mr Field argues that people are much more likely to accept

paying extra, targeted insurance contributions than higher direct taxes. "Voters will only be able to foot the bill if they have control over where their savings and contributions go," he said yesterday.

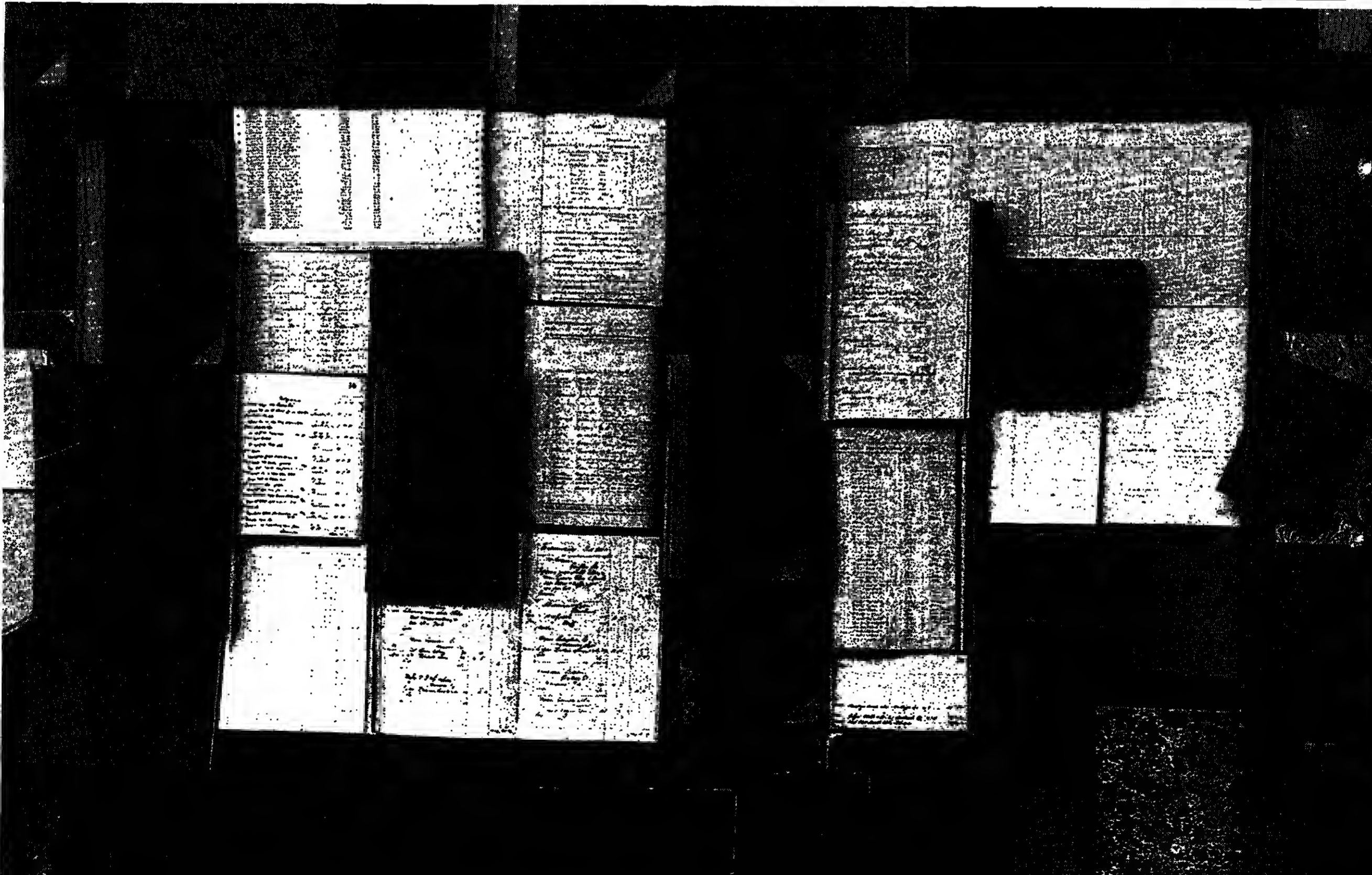
As well as the lower tax rates Mr Field proposes an increase of about £400 in the personal allowance. The changes would be funded by a new NHS insurance-based tax that would raise £18 billion — half the present annual costs of the health service. Everyone earning more than £60 a week would be expected to pay a 7 per cent NHS insurance tax.

Under the new insurance propos-

als every worker would be entitled to a state retirement pension. All those earning more than £100 a week who were not in a second pension scheme would be required to save towards that pension. "The aim of this dual pension scheme is to provide each and every worker a minimum pension entitlement of two thirds previous earnings," Mr Field said.

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates; Scottish questions; Public Accounts Committee reports; health authority deficits. In the Lords: Public Order (Amendment) Bill, committee; animal-slaughter slaughter scheme; Asylum (Designated Countries) Order.



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Poll success of Austrian far Right undermines Prodi's belief in benefits of European integration

# Italian discontent grows over drive to adopt the euro

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THREE weeks after the Italian Cabinet adopted a radical deficit-slashing budget in a final dash to meet the Maastricht single-currency criteria, it is dawning on a shocked Italian nation that the cost is too high.

The centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi is facing the first ominous rumblings of popular discontent since it was elected last April. Signor Prodi's office announced yesterday that the Italian leader would hold urgent unscheduled talks on monetary union with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in Bonn tomorrow.

The dramatic gains made by Jörg Haider's far-right anti-Maastricht Freedom Party in Austria's European elections have had a sobering impact on neighbouring Italy, where until recently adherence to European integration was an article of faith. Suddenly the hard questions are being asked.

"A nationalist Euro-sceptical wind is blowing across Europe," *La Repubblica* said yesterday. "We are so fixated on the criteria for the euro that we are failing to confront the other great issues, such as unemployment, immigration and the fight against crime."

A caricature on the cover of *L'Espresso* magazine shows a grimly determined Signor Prodi at the controls of a motorbike, heading for "Euro pile-up", while Massimo D'Alema, the astute leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communist core of the Government — gestures in a different direction from the sidecar.

Sixty per cent of Italians still say they are willing to make "sacrifices" to qualify for the euro. The entry at the weekend of the Finnish markka to the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) was — as *La Repubblica* put it — "a shock to us Mediterraneans, who think of Finland as a remote land of ice and mist".

The Prodi budget, which included a housing tax and a euro levy, was partly designed to undercut moves by Umberto Bossi's Northern League to secede and join economic and monetary union (EMU) separately. It was mainly inspired, however, by fear that fellow southern Europeans — above all the Spanish — would qualify while Italy did not.

At the European Union finance ministers' meeting in Luxembourg this week, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury

and Budget Minister, defended the budget, saying if he had predicted in May that Italy would be aiming to reduce its deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product by next year "they would have taken me off to the madhouse". He insisted that the lira would rejoin the ERM, which it left with sterling in 1992, "by the end of the year".

The end of the year is, however, only ten weeks away. Signor Prodi argues tartly that, if France is allowed "creative accounting", Italy should be too. However, Italians acknowledge that President Chirac tactlessly blurred out what he and Herr Kohl really thought when, on the eve of the Franco-Italian summit in Naples ten days ago, he said Italy would be left behind because of the "unstable lira". Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said at Luxembourg that the "hasty re-entry" of the lira to the ERM would "risk harm to both the Italian and the European monetary authorities", while Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank chairman, said Europe needed "durable economic convergence" — a coded rebuff to Italian aspirations.

Leading article, page 23



*L'Espresso* depicts Romano Prodi and Massimo D'Alema, hurtling towards an inevitable "Euro pile-up"

# Vienna to campaign against sceptics

FROM ROYAL BOYES IN VIENNA

THE Austrian Government, stunned by the growing popularity of the far Right, is considering ways of boosting the appeal of the European Union and persuading sceptical Austrians of the need for a single currency.

"There has to be more intensive and more open communication, a generally comprehensible message," said Viktor Klima, the Finance Minister, whose party, the Social Democrats, were the worst hit by the European election results at the weekend. "We have to set out in great detail the advantages of European membership."

Jörg Haider, the leader of the far-right Freedom Party, profited from the popular disillusion over European membership, winning 27.6 per cent of the vote. Above all, the reaction from abroad is prodding the Austrian Government into taking defensive action. Although Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, yesterday dismissed calls to resign, the coalition between Social Democrats and the conservative People's Party has to devise new strategies to increase the popularity of Europe and to halt the rise of Herr Haider.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was said yesterday to be "deeply concerned" about the electoral success of Herr Haider, who has set his sights on being leader of Austria by 1999 and would be within reach of his goal if he boosts his share of the vote from this weekend's 28 per cent to some 33 per cent.

"All the European finance ministers asked about only one thing — Haider," Herr Klima said after a European ministerial meeting in Luxembourg. The coincidence of the shrinking of the Centre and the apparently unstoppable rise of the Right is deeply worrying to foreign observers.

# French Fourth Estate stages 24-hour strike in protest at loss of tax perk

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH journalists, enraged at plans to eliminate their traditional tax perks, went on a 24-hour strike yesterday, reducing radio and television news coverage to a bare minimum and preventing the publication of today's edition of many national and regional newspapers. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, insisted the Government would not

back down from its pledge to scrap tax concessions for more than 100 professions, including a 30 per cent income tax deduction for journalists dating back to 1934.

But in an apparent attempt to calm the situation, M Juppé issued a vague statement saying that he had ordered Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, "to see that the move does not worsen certain situations in professions now benefiting from this rebate".

All of France's main journalists' unions supported the strike, insisting that the tax concession is an accepted part of journalists' salaries and claiming that a reporter earning the average wage of £1,600 a month would forfeit the equivalent of a month's pay if the tax reform goes through.

Several regional newspapers and journalists reporting on the French parliament have also threatened to stop coverage of politicians who

vote in favour of removing their privileged tax status.

Staff at *Le Monde* voted not to join the protest, but unions at most other leading French newspapers, including *Le Figaro*, *Libération* and *Le Parisien*, voted to strike. State-owned radio and television channels provided a skeleton news service while the news radio station France-Info was largely replaced by music.

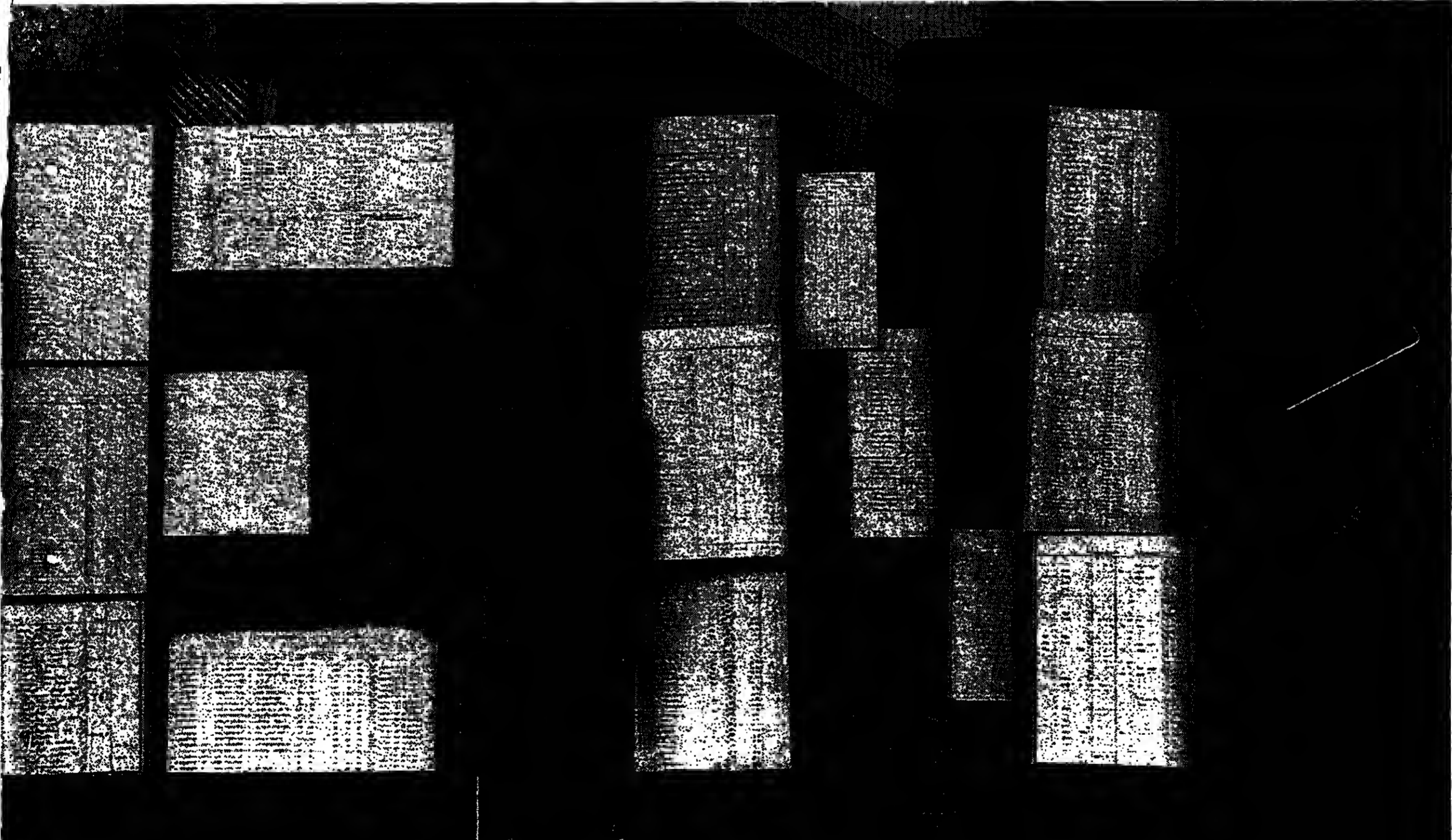
Tax reform is just one incendiary

element in a 1997 budget aimed at reducing spending and cutting the deficit to ensure France qualifies to join European monetary union.

The journalists' strike yesterday was a foretaste of tomorrow's general strike when civil servants, teachers, rail and power workers are all expected to stop work in protest at government austerity policies, planned job cuts and rising unemployment. Some MPs have accused protest-

ing journalists of unconstitutional behaviour and attempted blackmail, but others, apparently fearing a media boycott, have tabled amendments to the tax reform Bill.

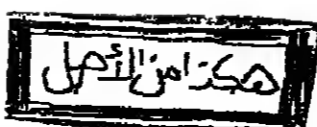
Government officials say they are confident tomorrow's 24-hour strike is an isolated, one-off protest rather than the precursor to another winter of disquiet. But last year's unrest also began with a one-day strike and government protestations of confidence.



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# Panicky Taleban braced for big attack on Kabul

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

KABUL waited nervously yesterday for news of war. Its one million citizens do not know if they are to be invaded immediately or later. The tension shows on the faces of Taleban soldiers in the streets: their mood is ugly and they have discarded the plastic flowers fixed to their guns after they seized the capital.

General Ahmed Shah Masood, defence chief of the former government ousted by Taleban nearly three weeks ago, is fighting for control of the important Bagram military airbase north of the capital. Its fall seems inevitable. That will finally drive Taleban back to Kabul, which has a formidable armoury of anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and heavy artillery.

General Masood's alliance with General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern warlord, is crucial to what happens next. General Masood could not retake Kabul alone by conventional military means. There are doubts about General Dostum's intentions: his primary interest has always been the preservation of his successful fiefdom and, so long as that is safe, he may decline to join any assault on Kabul.

General Dostum's name comes from the Urdu for friend, *dost*. A *dostum* is everybody's friend — an appropriate name for a warlord who is willing to befriend anybody who will help to keep his empire intact. He has changed sides at least three times in Afghanistan's recent warmongering and has broken deals as fast as he has made them.

General Masood may decide on a longer-term strategy to retake Kabul. He could move against softer targets first — the crucial town of Sarobi, east of Kabul, would be a logical first step since it straddles the vital supply road from the Khyber Pass. The western city of Herat, which is largely Tajik and resents the Pashtun-dominated Taleban rulers, would be ripe for subversion.

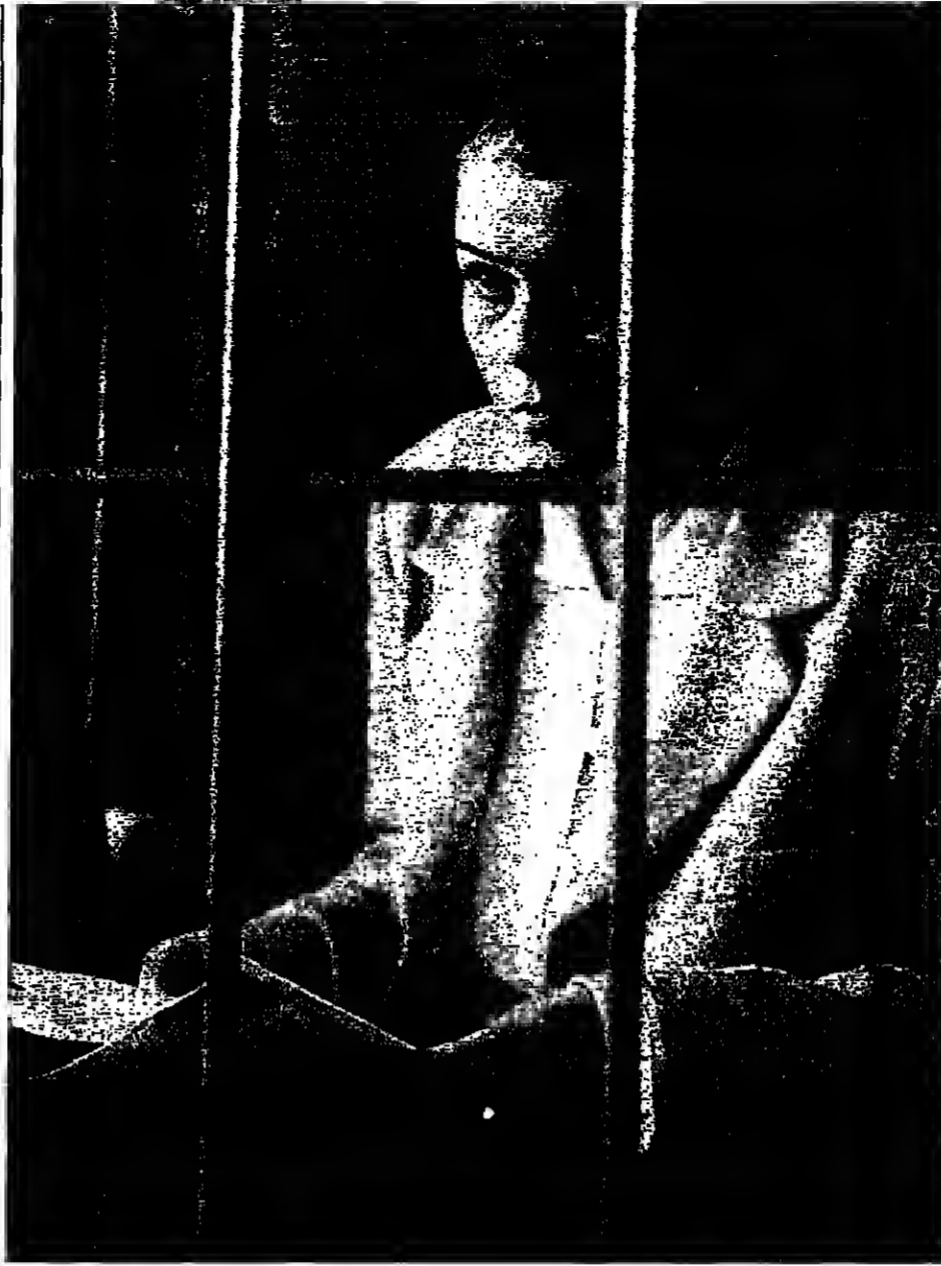
Taleban has alienated Kabul with its Islamic dogma, and General Masood could exploit this popular dissatisfaction simply by letting it grow. A small ammunition dump blew up a few days ago. It is not known if it was sabotage, but Taleban soldiers were in such a panic they started shooting at each other. Such are the tensions. The people no longer greet the fighters as they did when they arrived and the gunmen are increasingly surly.

Pakistan sent a high-level emissary to Afghanistan yesterday for talks with Taleban, which it has supported despite persistent denials. A group of ten gunmen dressed as Talebs responded to a question addressed to them in Urdu a few days ago, until they realised their mistake and fell silent.

Pakistan, used as a conduit by the United States for billions of dollars to arm the Mujahidin guerrillas fighting the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, may have once more backed the wrong horse. Since the end of the Cold War the former Mujahidin have destabilised the region with their drugs, guns and warfare.

Pakistan hoped Taleban would bring peace and unity to its neighbour, and the United States hoped the Islamic warriors would oppose the drugs trade — Afghanistan rivals Burma as the largest producer of raw opium. Instead, drugs production in Taleban areas has risen significantly, according to United Nations sources.

Afghans under Taleban may lose a limb for taking drugs, but it is apparently acceptable to produce heroin for the West's non-Muslims.



Karen Henderson in court yesterday. She could be sent to a labour camp if found guilty

# British girl faces Moscow judges on drugs charge

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A TEENAGE British girl, charged with cocaine smuggling and facing several years in a Russian labour camp if found guilty, pleaded her innocence yesterday in a Moscow courtroom.

From behind the bars of a steel cage, Karen Henderson, 18, told the court that she had been tricked into carrying 10lb of cocaine in her luggage on a flight from Havana to Poland via Moscow.

Russian customs officers arrested Miss Henderson and Suzanne Gerarda, a Dutch passenger, on February 6 after discovering the drugs packed into false bottoms in their suitcases.

Gerarda pleaded guilty to the smuggling charges and was sentenced to six years' labour in a prison camp.

Miss Henderson, who remained calm and confident during the hearing, insisted that she had been tricked by a man at Havana airport who sold her a new suitcase, containing the drug, after her old suitcase had broken.

Since her arrest she has been held in Moscow's notorious Butyrka remand prison, which houses 7,000 inmates — double the number it was designed to hold.

If convicted, Miss Henderson could be sent to a labour camp for foreigners in Mordovia, a region east of Moscow which was infamous as a prison colony in the days of Soviet rule.

Yesterday's proceedings in the tiny Moscow regional courtroom, which was packed with relatives, British consular officials and journalists, ranged from the farcical to the tragic.

On a number of occasions, Miss Henderson had to ask for the proceedings to be halted because her court-appointed interpreter could not keep up with the testimony and examination, or had mistranslated the discussions.

One of the three judges on the panel slept quite soundly through most of the hearing, even though he will be expected to vote on the verdict and sentence as early as today.

The defendant's mother, Patricia Henderson, called as a character witness, insisted that her daughter had never used drugs and had never been in trouble with the police. She said her daughter had a trusting nature, which could have led to her being tricked. "Please, please let her come home with us," she pleaded.

Hugh Henderson, her father, sat impassively at the back of the court. He said before yesterday's proceedings that he was at a loss to explain what had happened.

"I love Karen dearly," he said. "To me she is just a child. I will do anything I can to help her."

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## Belgians go on strike over judge

Brussels: Public sector workers went on strike and there were demonstrations across Belgium yesterday in protest over the dismissal of Jean-Marc Condroit, the judicial investigator, from the country's child sex abuse and murder inquiry (Leyla Linton writes).

Volkswagen workers tried to force their way into the Palais de Justice here, where a crowd of about 700 gathered. Some protesters threw eggs, but most left messages of support and flowers.

## Court orders Priebke retrial

Rome: Italy's highest court of appeal ordered a retrial for former SS captain Erich Priebke over the massacre of 335 Italians in 1944. The court made void a military court verdict that had found Priebke guilty of war crimes but had ordered him freed because the statute of limitations had run out. (Reuters)

## South Africans flee from crime

Johannesburg: Fear of violent crime is leading white South Africans to flee the country in growing numbers. The number of emigrants, almost all white professionals, rose 23.6 per cent to 5,627 in the first six half of 1996 over the same period last year, while the number of immigrants fell by 4.2 per cent to 2,509. (Reuters)

## Gabon Ebola toll rises to 10

Geneva: The Ebola virus has killed ten people in Gabon, the World Health Organisation said. The United Nations health agency confirmed that an Ebola-type virus had infected 14 people in the Boue region in the northeast of the West African country. Two of the remaining four are reported to be acutely ill. (AP)

# Church moves to canonise shot tsar and his family

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY 80 years after Tsar Nicholas II, his wife and five children were executed by the Bolsheviks, the Russian Orthodox Church has taken the first steps to have the country's last royal family canonised.

At the latest meeting of the Church's Holy Synod in Moscow, senior clerics have been hearing the findings of a study into the proposal that the entire royal family should be declared saints. Although it could be months before a decision, the move has caused a dispute between supporters of the monarchy and Communists, who regard the entire process as a politically inspired propaganda ploy.

Father Aleksandr Butyakov, for the Moscow patriarchate, said that the whole Church had to be consulted before the proposal went before the Archbishops' Convocation in February for a preliminary decision. "The Church does not want any dissent on this," he said. "It must have unanimous approval."

The debate is likely to centre on the lives and the deaths of



The Tsar and his Tsarina: church wants unanimity

the last Romanovs. Tsar Nicholas abdicated in March 1917 as the country slid into civil war. He was taken to the Urals city of Yekaterinburg where he was held in the house of a local merchant. In July 1918 the Tsar, his wife Tsarina Alexandra, Crown Prince Alexei and Princesses Olga, Tatyana, Anastasia and Marie were shot and bayoneted to death with the family doctor and three servants.

Advocates of the canonisation say that the last monarch acted with saintly devotion to God and his country. "He relinquished power for the good of his country. He stayed in Russia rather than fleeing," Archimandrite Platon Igumnov told the *Moscow Times*.

However, Irina Makaveyeva, a spokesman for the Communist Party, said that she and many Russians regarded Nicholas II as a traitor who had abdicated when the country was in difficulties and had remained in his homeland only because Britain would not accept him.

# Spanish youth stay at home

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

MORE young Spanish adults than ever before are remaining in the parental home as unemployment grows, a recent study has shown.

Revealing a sharp reversal of Western trends, the Institute of Youth has found that 52 per cent of all Spaniards aged between 25 and 30 years now live with their parents, almost twice the number that did so a decade ago. Of those aged between 16 and 30, the study finds, 80 per cent have not yet left home.

Spain has a larger percentage of "adult young" living with their parents than anywhere else in the developed world. The reasons for this are not difficult to discern. Unemployment in Spain is at Europe's highest level, with one in four members of the workforce officially jobless.

The unemployment rate for those under 30 is almost twice that.

Property prices, particularly in metropolitan areas, tend to be as high as those in Britain. The rental market, too, offers poor prospects.

Yet although the study shows that two-thirds of those aged between 25 and 30 lack "economic autonomy", the impoverished are not the only ones who tend to stay at home. Several Spaniards in full-time employment are also aware that living at home can ensure a higher quality of life than living on one's own.

Margarita, 57, a Madrid cleaner, said: "My son earns enough to buy his own flat and move out, but why should he? I provide a better domestic service for him than he would get anywhere else. He

can spend his salary on his car, his clothes and his girlfriend."

Since "emancipation" from the parental home has traditionally come with marriage, the stay-at-home statistics have also been boosted by the fact that Spanish men and women are now marrying later than ever.

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# Dole gets personal as funding row engulfs Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE will face President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate tonight after launching an attack on the President's ethics in a last-ditch effort to turn the race around.

Fueled by Mr Dole's attack was a burgeoning scandal involving huge, highly dubious contributions to the Democratic Party and Mr Clinton's re-election campaign from wealthy Indonesians.

Republicans have been competing the tawdry but complex affair for several days, demanding a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate, but only yesterday did the story pick up momentum when it led television news bulletins and crept on to the front pages of several leading newspapers.

Mr Dole, fearful of resurrecting his old "hatchet man" image, has long equivocated about directly attacking Mr Clinton. His wife, Elizabeth, has reportedly said that if he is to lose he should do so with dignity. On Monday, however, he threw caution aside.

At a Kansas City rally he mocked Mr Clinton's claims to an ethical administration, noting: "Over 30 people gone. They're in jail or they're indicted or they're out there."

He insisted that Mr Clinton



ELECTION '96

unambiguously rule out presidential pardons for convicted Whitewater business associates who might otherwise cooperate with Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor. He also compared the White House's improper acquisition of hundreds of FBI files on Republican officials to Watergate.

The Dole campaign published some searching questions about the Indonesian campaign contributions. "Not some slip, slide and duck. Mr President. Just answer the questions," Mr Dole demanded.

Unlike the first debate, tonight's has a "town-hall" format where 120 randomly selected Californians sit around the stage and ask the questions. Mr Dole cannot control the issues raised, and strident attacks could badly backfire in such an intimate setting.

Mr Dole is also vulnerable himself. He has done count-

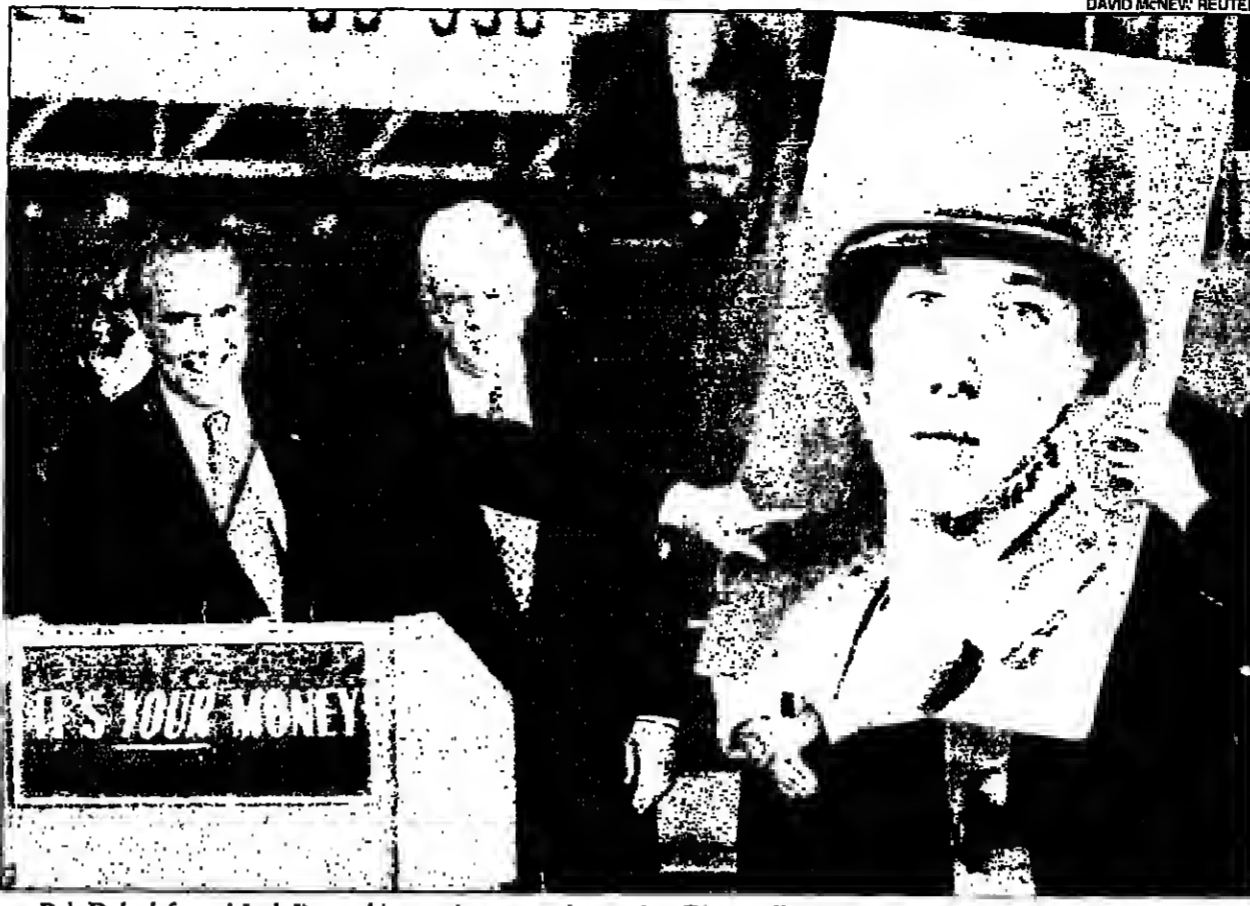
less favours for important campaign contributors during his 35 years in Congress, grown wealthy through means unavailable to ordinary Americans, and was one of President Nixon's staunchest defenders during Watergate. He vigorously defended President Ford's subsequent pardon of Mr Nixon.

The most controversial Indonesian contributions, totaling \$425,000 (£275,000) over seven months, were made by Airef and Suraya Wiradinata, an Indonesian couple of apparently modest means living in Washington's Virginia suburbs.

Contributions from foreigners are legal provided they are American residents. However, Republicans insist the Wiradinatas were merely a front for the Lippo Group, a vast Indonesian conglomerate run by the Riady family, whose links with Mr Clinton date back to his Arkansas days.

The contributions were solicited by John Huang, a former Lippo executive who was given a sensitive Commerce Department post dealing with international economic policy in 1994 and later became a Democratic Party fundraiser.

The Wiradinatas are now incommunicado in Indonesia. Mr Huang will answer only written questions. The White House flatly insists no laws were broken.



Bob Dole, left, and Jack Kemp, his running-mate, show a San Diego rally a picture of Mr Dole as a young soldier

## Remodelled First Lady takes to the road

FROM TOM RHODES IN CHICAGO

HILLARY CLINTON spent half an hour in the grandiose Chicago ballroom before she was whisked away to another loyal audience in another state to the strains of *Sweet Home Chicago*, the tune she adopted in her native city.

Mrs Clinton left behind adoring supporters and frustrated journalists. The fundraising event in Chicago offered the Clinton imprimatur for Dick Durbin, the Democratic Senate candidate. Four or five days a week Mrs Clinton is criss-

crossing America by stealth, addressing pre-selected groups from Illinois to Florida, Connecticut to California. Yesterday it was Arizona. Today she joins her husband for the presidential debate in San Diego. On Friday it will be New Hampshire.

The schedule is released only at the last minute and no member of the media is allowed on her plane. Indeed following Mrs Clinton offers a challenging respite to the publicity-conscious campaign of Elizabeth Dole, wife of the Republican candidate, Bob Dole.

National opinion is divided. Fifty per cent of the electorate, mostly women, view Mrs Clinton as a global role model

and cite misogyny as the cause of her troubles. Almost as many view her as a martinet and congenial liar whose hand is behind every scandal that has plagued Bill Clinton's ascendancy from Arkansas to the White House. There is talk of her indictment by Whitewater prosecutors next year. In short, she has become the most potent factor in his reelection.

Her carefully-scripted speeches have reined in the liberal ideology that marked her first two years in Washington and proved so disastrous for Mr Clinton at the mid-term elections in 1994. In twinset and pearls, this is Hillary the asset, rather than Hillary the liability.

## Raids fail to destroy Saddam's missiles

FROM BRONWEN MARDUX IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ repaired its surface-to-air missile system within two weeks of being bombed with £32 million of American cruise missiles, a senior defence official has claimed.

It would take "a flip of the switch" for Iraq to be able to threaten aircraft patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, the unnamed official told *The Washington Post*.

On September 2 and 3, American forces attacked Iraqi air defences with 44 cruise missiles after President Saddam Hussein of Iraq sent his forces into Kurdish-held northern Iraq. General John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said afterwards: "We have warned Saddam Hussein that any attempt to repair those sites... will be taken very seriously."

It now appears that the sites may not have been as badly damaged as thought, or that Iraq's ability to rebuild its capacity is better than believed. Republicans have criticised the Clinton Administration for wasting millions of dollars on ineffective attacks.

The official emphasised that there was no sign that Iraq plans offensive use of its surface-to-air radar or Soviet-made missiles. The United States has not taken further action partly because Iraq has complied with demands such as removing mobile missile units from the no-fly zone.

## Lourdes Maria and her Madonna doing well

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BURDENED with instant celebrity and an unusual name, Madonna's first child, a girl, was born without complications at a Los Angeles hospital on Monday afternoon.

Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon weighed 6lb 9oz as she entered her mother's world of global fame and closely guarded privacy.

The arrival of the "showbiz baby of the year" was confirmed by the father of a convicted felon, Dr Paul Fleiss, a paediatrician whose daughter, Heidi, ran a Hollywood callgirl ring, supervised the delivery at the singer's request. Mobbed by cameras, he emerged from the Good Samaritan Hospital late on Monday. Dr Fleiss confirmed the birth and his role in it and said it had been natural, not by Caesarean section, as had been rumoured.

Madonna, 38, has given no



Madonna: Carlos Leon was at her bedside

indication whether she plans to marry the girl's father, Carlos Leon, 30, although her publicist said he was at the star's bedside for the birth. Suggestions that the Material Girl's foray into parenthood was for "shock value" or that she had "used the father as a stud service" are wide of the

mark, she wrote in a recently published diary, adding: "These are comments only a man would make."

In fact, she inspired such talk by joking on television last year that she was considering advertising for candidates for the "fatherhood gig". In the end, she lighted on Mr Leon, a Cuban-born fitness club manager, after bumping into him while jogging in New York's Central Park two years ago. The star spent most of her pregnancy filming *Evita* in Argentina, Hungary and London, but found time to dine with Mr Leon's family in Miami.

Madonna's past is anything but maternal. She exploded onto the pop scene in the early 1980s as a mincing nymphet, and maintained her fame with pointed bras and pornographic picture books.

In the Magazine on Saturday, Madonna on the making of *Evita*



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## Antarctic job for FBI as chefs get in a stew

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FBI agents have been sent to Antarctica after a squabble between cooks at an American base there.

Three agents this week went to McMurdo Sound, site of America's Antarctic base, to investigate what could become a landmark case for the south polar continent. Seven nations claim territorial rights to Antarctica, but since a 1961 treaty these have been placed on ice, as it were, in the name of scientific endeavour and global goodwill.

The arrival of FBI agents, along with a solitary Australian official, could create a legal precedent for the policing of the 5.5 million square mile land mass. Details of the incident in the McMurdo Sound kitchen were foggy, but one cook, equipped with an ice axe, was said to have attempted to bury it in the head of a colleague. A third cook joined in, possibly to separate the two combatants.

Two chefs, named as Tony Beyer and Joe Sterner, were hurt in the alleged attack and required stitches. Another man, who was not named, was being held in custody, pending the arrival of the FBI officials.

An FBI spokesman in Washington yesterday refused to comment on the case, but the American move will be watched with interest by the Governments of Britain, Norway, France, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina, which have all made claims on the region.

## Weekender Plus

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# 'Striptease' Sandinista chief lures back voters

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MANAGUA

SIX years after Nicaraguans voted the Sandinista Front for National Liberation out of office, Daniel Ortega, the former President, is staging a remarkable comeback as the country returns to the polls next Sunday.

After trailing badly early in the campaign, the election race has tightened, with Señor Ortega now nearly even with the favourite, Arnaldo Alemán, the former Mayor of Managua and a bitter Sandinista foe.

Repackaged as the candidate of peace, Señor Ortega, 49, is running a slick campaign. Seeking to make amends for the policies that alienated many voters in 1990, he has brought his message of reconciliation to far-flung rural corners of this impoverished nation of four million.

During the 1980s, when the United States feared the spread of communism in Latin America, few left-wing leaders got more under Washington's skin than Señor Ortega. "A tinpot dictator," Ronald Reagan called him; George Bush once said that he was a "skunk" at the garden party of democracy.

But today the Marxist rhetoric is gone. The Sandinistas have changed their tune, replacing the party's revolutionary anthem, which vowed to "fight against the Yankee, enemies of humanity", with Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

"It is working," says Oscar René Vargas, a political analyst. "The Sandinistas have been able to change the image of Ortega from an aggressive figure to a saintly man." Dressed in white on the campaign trail, Señor Ortega says he feels the pain of those worst affected by the country's civil war. "I have also suffered," he told one rally, referring to the seven years he spent in jail

and the comrades killed, including his youngest brother.

"We cannot go on living with hatred and grudges," he said. "We are a family that unite again." he added as girls waved red-and-black pom-poms before a banner bearing his name and a big red heart with an arrow through it.

Critics say the Sandinista changes are more apparent than real. Few have forgotten the plundering of Nicaragua's national treasury by Sandinista bosses during their final days in office in 1990. Overnight the *comandantes* became wealthy men, running an empire of secret front companies, including banks, insurance companies, import-export businesses and large coffee and cattle farms.

Señor Ortega has also caused offence by his attempted last-ditch alliances with former enemies, including landowners, church leaders and even members of the US-backed Contra army which waged a bloody war against the Sandinistas in the 1980s.

"It is a political striptease," said Sergio Ramírez, the novelist who was the Sandinista Government's Vice-President in the 1980s but left the party in disgust two years ago. "If you take off all your clothes, you end up naked."

Last month Señor Ortega staged a public meeting with Contra fighters and signed a pact offering them three Cabinet positions. The Sandinistas say that more than 4,000 former Contras attended, but witnesses say only a handful of commanders were present.

Critics accused Señor Ortega of making a pact with the devil in an attempt to win votes. "It is immoral," said Dora María Téllez, a much-respected Health Minister in Señor Ortega's Government.



An artist's impression of a stegosaurus, with a double row of spikes along its spine

# Rare dinosaur fossils stolen from sacred Australian site

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THIEVES who stole dinosaur fossils from a sacred site near Broome, in Western Australia, got away with what are believed to be the world's only known set of stegosaurus footprints, palaeontologists said yesterday.

The prehistoric remains came from a track made by the 30ft tall herbivore, distinguished by a double row of spikes along its spine, which roamed the planet during the Jurassic period. The prints date from more than 130 million years ago and were an important link in the chain of evidence suggesting the existence of the prehistoric southern land of Gondwana, over what is now Australia, South America, Africa, India and Antarctica.

Ken McNamara, senior curator of fossils at the University of Western Australia, said the footprints were of incalculable significance. "It is a great loss because they are unique fossil trackways and worldwide they are incredibly rare," he said. "I don't know what the footprints would be worth on the open market, but



One of the fossil footprints

as far as the work that is going on to support the existence of a super-continent is concerned, they were unique."

Local Aborigines, who believe the four footprints belong to a mythical creature from their "Dream Time", are upset by the theft. Aboriginal custodian Joseph Roe claimed the theft could bring bad luck.

"Whoever is responsible for stealing the rock could fall ill and as custodian I'm at risk myself," he said. "It's a real worry."

Mr Roe said the local spirits would look for revenge. "The quicker I get my hands on these things and put them back, the safer it'll be for me and whoever took them."

Police believe the footprints were removed from rock with the aid of power tools. The theft of the dinosaur fossils comes only weeks after the world's oldest rock carvings were found in Australia's Northern Territory.

# 'Worthless' footprints may go to private collector

BY ROGER MAYNARD AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WHILE there is a thriving world trade in fossils, most palaeontologists believe that the stolen footprints of the stegosaurus are so rare as to make them worthless on the open market. Dr Robert Bakker, dinosaur curator

at the Tate Museum in Wyoming, said on Australian radio yesterday that the fossilised footprints would be easily recognisable.

"Someone wanted a souvenir, they went out and stole antiquities and since they would be easily identified at a gem and mineral show in a catalogue, their retail value is virtually zip," he said. Police believe the footprints may have

been stolen by or for a private collector.

North America has a flourishing market in dinosaur remains and artefacts, and prices can run to several thousands, some say millions, of dollars. Trading is mostly legal and is done through various media, from the Internet to big city auction houses, such as Sotheby's. The going rate for a

*Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton is said to be around \$1 million (£640,000).

The New York-based US Dinosaur Society, a blameless organisation of dinosaur enthusiasts, yesterday lamented the lack of export restriction laws on dinosaur remains from America and predicted that the dinosaur collecting world would soon also have to come to terms with counterfeiting.



Scientists measure the stegosaurus footprints near Broome, Western Australia



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# Chinese may close 'wild west' border to rein in Muslims

FROM DAVID WATTS IN KASHGAR, XINJIANG, WESTERN CHINA

FACED with the murder of an imam and sporadic unrest in its far western regions, the Chinese Government is considering closing its northwestern borders to all but bona fide business travellers.

Plans to close the border since as a crackdown is under way against Muslim activists in Xinjiang province. Several hundred have been arrested since midsummer, separatists in Kazakhstan say.

The authorities are targeting illegal religious activists with a special focus on underground schools that teach "religious dogma and even military training", according to the Peking press. Some schools have been closed. At least 50 people have been arrested in Kashgar.

The imam's murder came only weeks after President Jiang Zemin had agreed measures to combat the spread of Islamic fundamentalism with the leaders of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and it underlined Peking's fear of the unknown after a clutch of new, independent states flowered on its doorstep.

The news of the planned border closure was disclosed

by a Chinese guide in Kashgar, a "wild west" border town where the Chinese and Muslims live distinct lives, the former's affairs synchronised with Peking several time-zones away. The guide was clearly rattled by the idea that the Muslim Uighurs might present more of a threat than he had appreciated as we sat drinking tea only yards from where a series of brilliant British agents kept watch on similar strategic developments in the 19th century.

Today the low, pink building where the agents kept watch is a restaurant dwarfed by a garish hotel which attracts Muslim traders from Central Asia and Pakistan determined to exploit China's new, free-market opportunities. The Muslim area around the Id Kah mosque, which attracts 10,000 devotees on a Friday, is surrounded by streets packed with tea-shops and the kind of contraband to make Western conservationists blench. One shop offered a saw leopard pelt for £160 and hats of the same material were on the shelves.

It is not hard to see why the Government is nervous.

Tough Russian women may be checking baggage with fearsome efficiency on the Kyrgyz border, but no man's land is more than 100 miles wide. It is some of the most barren terrain in the world, where it is possible to drive half a day seeing nobody except the occasional Kyrgyz herding horses.

The traffic up to the Chinese border consists largely of Kyrgyz herding pigs, high with animal pelts, perfect cover for weapons and propaganda coming over the border from the radicals in Afghanistan and Iran.

From here there is an uninterrupted arc of Islamic nations stretching back to Istanbul that has Peking officials deeply fearful that it will one day result in the separation of Xinjiang, which is larger than Tibet, from the rest of China. And that is not the only parallel with Tibet: Peking has dubbed Xinjiang an autonomous region, poured in Han Chinese to ensure control, and has the Lop Nur nuclear testing base in the province. Any suggestion of autonomy is clearly a misnomer - my Chinese guide had to consult a bus driver when asked the name of the Uighur head of government.

Yet the Muslim threat to China is far from proven: Chinese Muslims are the generally less militant Sunni, as are most of their brethren to the west: their women are not heavily veiled. There is no call to prayer before dawn in Kashgar, with attendance at the mosque usually confined to Fridays.



King Hussein, left, consults Yassir Arafat yesterday during his first visit to Jericho since the West Bank was taken from Jordan in the Six-Day War

# Arafat proposes US peace force for Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT proposed yesterday that American troops should be sent to the West Bank as part of a new peacekeeping force to protect Jewish settlers living in Hebron, thus allowing the long-delayed withdrawal of Israeli troops from the last occupied Palestinian city.

Western diplomatic sources said the plan put forward by the President of the Palestinian Authority was to form an international peacekeeping force

similar to that helping to keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia. They said Palestinian officials had suggested privately that British and French troops might also play a part.

Last night William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, denied a force including American troops was being considered for Hebron. "It is not under active consideration," he said in Washington before meeting Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister. Earlier, the Palestinian leader revealed that his plan for breaking the deadlock in peace negotiations had

been formally put on the table to the Israelis. Last night Israel rejected the proposed peacekeeping force and accused Mr Arafat of attempting to create a "crisis when the talks are on the point of completion". Mr Arafat claimed, however, that the Hebron talks had made no progress.

David Bar-Ilan, the director of Planning and Communications in the Prime Minister's Office, said the plan to bring in soldiers from the United States and other countries was "amazing". It was in breach of the 1993 Oslo peace accord that the Palestinians

had insisted must be upheld to the letter by the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu. The Palestinian blueprint would involve the troops patrolling a buffer zone in Hebron, regarded as holy by Muslims and Jews, to protect the 450 Jews in the centre from the 100,000 Palestinians around them.

Mr Arafat's plan was disclosed during a visit to the Palestinian self-rule city of Jericho by King Hussein of Jordan. It was the first time the monarch had set foot in the West Bank since it was taken from Jordan by Israeli troops 29 years ago.



Jonathan Mirsky, page 22

# Pope goes back to Vatican

Rome: The Pope returned to the Vatican yesterday, a week after he entered the Gemelli hospital for the removal of an inflamed appendix (Richard Owen writes).

Before leaving, he complied with a request from children in the cancer ward next to his tenth-floor papal suite to visit them. He gave rosaries to the children and their parents.

Although doctors ordered him to rest after removing his stitches yesterday, the pontiff is expected to appear at his window above St Peter's Square today to mark the eighteenth anniversary of his election as Pope.

# 'Mercy killing' kit to go on Internet

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

COMPUTER software used in the world's first legalised "mercy killing" will soon be available on the Internet, the doctor who invented Australia's so-called death machine disclosed yesterday.

Three weeks after Dr Philip Nitschke connected Bob Dent, a cancer sufferer, to his laptop computer, the software and an instruction kit are about to make their debut on the worldwide web. "It is to let people know and give them some idea of the way this is being done in a responsible fashion in the Northern Territory," he said.

The assisted-suicide software, which allows the terminally ill to inject themselves with lethal drugs by entering three simple computer commands, will be available for copying from Dr Nitschke's home page.

He rejected suggestions that he might face criminal charges if a machine built from material supplied on the Internet was used in "mercy killings" outside the Northern Territory, the only place in the world where euthanasia is legal.

The Darwin-based doctor plans to develop a machine which uses carbon monoxide fed through a mask.

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Fashion meets art in Paris, where the outfits are elegant, sleek, chic, sexy and sometimes downright weird

# Masterpieces of the collections



GIVENCHY: roses and ruffles



SITBON: sparkling



WESTWOOD: simple



VALENTINO: lingerie looks offer a neat line in subdued sexiness

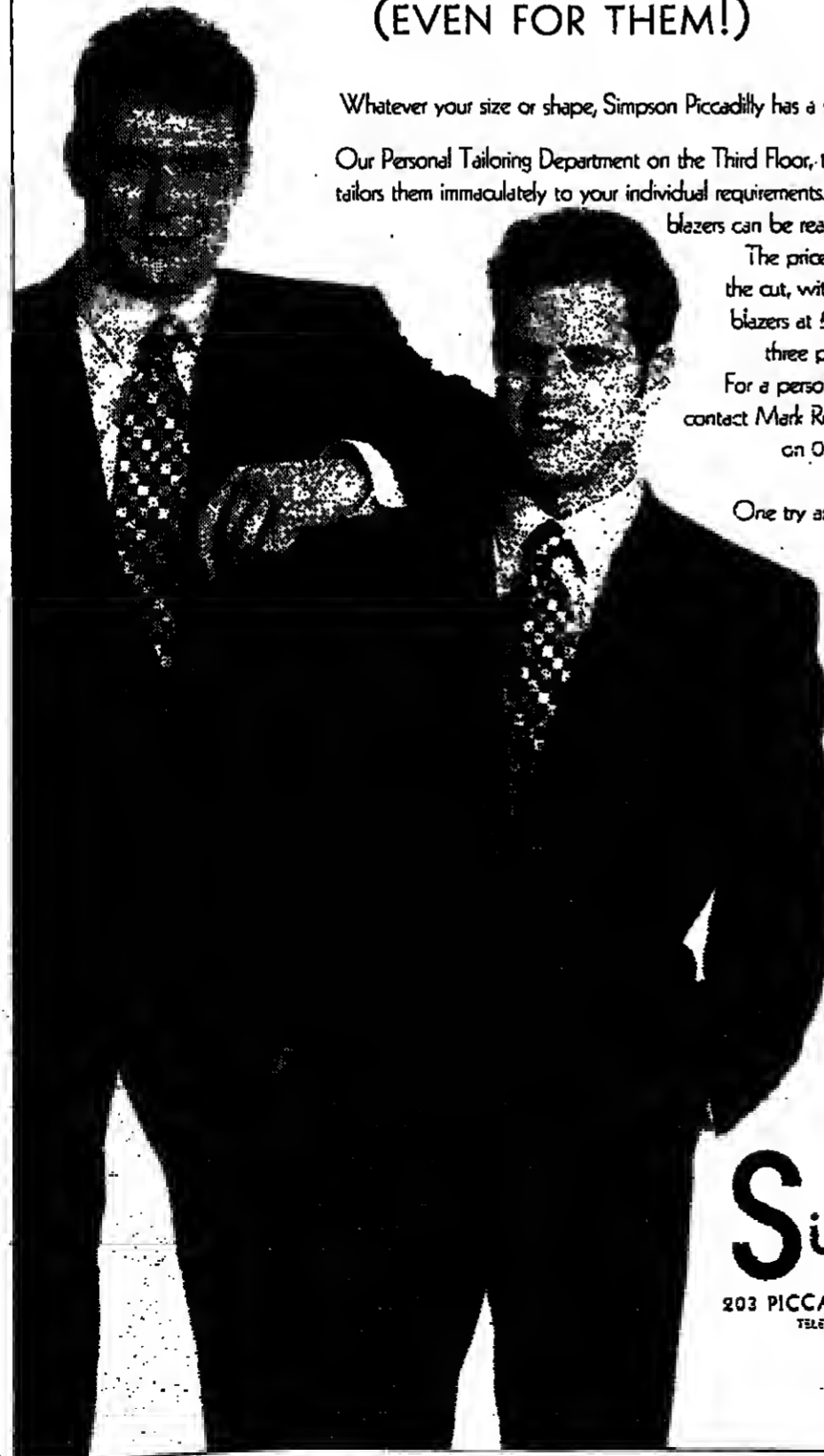


CERRUTI: tailoring teamed with barely-there tops



YAMAMOTO: best of the bunch with an artfully modern look which embraced colour and pattern

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### Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

Those who scoff when fashion is likened to art should have attended the Comme des Garçons spring/summer 1997 presentation during Paris Fashion Week. There was no music to accompany the models, who wore the prettiest of summer dresses (wrapped and twisted about their bodies) in pink and blue gingham and pastel patterned chiffon. "Nothing remarkable about that, you might say, but then there were the humps. Yes, humps, lumps and bumps. Rei Kawakubo, who designs the line, had inserted feather stuffed pillows between flesh and fabric, distorting the perfectly formed models into bizarre Breughel-like silhouettes. "The body and dress become one," she explains. Humm. Paris Fashion Week is a paradox. With nearly 100 fashion shows it is possible to experience the wearable, the wacky and the downright weird. There are the immediately accessible clothes of designers such as Valentino and Sonia Rykiel alongside intellectual exercises by the likes of Comme des Garçons.

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Helmut Lang and Ann Demeulemeester. However, beyond the arty styling and oh-so-serious viewpoint, most collections featured really good things to wear. This was a great season for women who love clothes.

Both Lang and Demeulemeester do excellent trouser suits — Lang's are stricter, with jackets featuring an inset stripe while Demeulemeester cuts a low-slung, wide trouser worn with an unstructured double-breasted jacket. Lang also featured shift dresses with wavy hems and fluttering sashes.

Vivienne Westwood created some of the most elegant silhouettes in Paris — sinuous draped crepe cocktail dresses, knitted suits and sleek tailoring. She also showed a long black evening dress which was pure drip-dead chic alongside sun-dresses printed with flowers and fruit. A peach of a collection.

Over at Givenchy, everything was smelling of roses. John Galliano, who designed the line, used spriggy Regency prints on flamboyant ruffled matinee jackets and high-waisted Jane Austen dresses. Leopard-spot chiffon was mixed with candy-colored brocade, while ultra-simple streamlined blazers in black or white were matched with understated contrast skirts, with hemlines which skimmed the floor. For his own collection, Galliano mixed leather motorbiker suits with gypsy frills.

Martine Sitbon used pinstripe tailoring, golden knits and handkerchief hem devoré velvet dresses in a sexy show, while for his eponymous collection Karl Lagerfeld offered jersey slink suits and dresses which slid over the body. For Chanel he made candy-box clothes for his disco-dolly models who glided past on a conveyor belt. The outfits were as slick as the presentation.

Rykiel's show featured more than 60 models; Yves Saint

Laurent used only half a dozen for his intimate studio presentation. Both created utterly Parisian chic. YSL's tuxedo was teamed with a long black skirt and Rykiel favoured blue jeans.

A truly great designer can capture the moment with colour, fabric, shape and, most of all, imagination. He or she also instinctively recognises their own particular moment has come. This season Valentino met fashion head-on with a collection which showcased his greatest hits — lightweight frills, asymmetric cutting, jackets that were little more than lace shirts, beadwork and tailoring, softened with lingerie looks.

Narciso Rodriguez has made the Cerruti label cool with his red hot designs. This collection embodied fashion's spirit — sophisticated yet care-

free. Jersey dresses flowed down the runway next to barely-there camisoles worn with softly tailored suits.

At the other end of fashion is Yohji Yamamoto whose latest show was an exhibition of pure artistry. The Japanese designer embraced colour and decoration alongside the monochromatic. He even added humour with spoof Chanel-type suits and a touch of romance with layers of white lace frills. The simplest of tops and trousers looked covetable. Yamamoto is one of the great masters of the craft.

I guess, after all, fashion is a bit like art. Sometimes you welcome the thought-provoking and other times you just want something you feel comfortable with, something nice to hang on your wall. In what turned out to be a sensational season, Paris offered both.

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Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS

# The deadly result of ignorance

### The discoveries of science may be unpalatable — but we should still be told

A few years back, I came across some American research — emanating from an academic medical centre in Illinois, I believe — which found that women who had abortions while in their late teens and early twenties seemed to be at an increased risk of breast cancer later on.

When I raised this once publicly, I was shouted down, reprimanded for reporting too much trust in a report which was based on a lamentably small sample. This report itself never received much currency over here and I assumed my critics were correct. Even the medical establishment didn't appear to set much store by it or its findings.

I had thought, then, that the findings were at best inconclusive, at worst had been irresponsibly interpreted and that was why they were ignored: now I wonder whether they had simply been quashed.

For newer studies confirm those earlier findings: American scientists are once again proposing that abortion does have an effect on the likelihood of a woman's developing breast cancer; but now they go further, suggesting that having an abortion increases one's chances of breast cancer by a third. What's more, they suggest that this has long since been suspected.

Even if inconclusive — and all research is by its nature inconclusive — this is extremely big news, big enough to be analysed seriously. Instead, the scientists are haddommed for even having the temerity to publish the results.

Ann Furedi, of the Birth Control Trust, does not say that, I admit, but she does say, by way of rebuke, that "the risks to a woman's health from continuing an unwanted pregnancy are significantly greater than from abortion".

How can she be so sure? If she won't even consider these latest findings, how can she satisfy herself that there really is nothing in them?

Evidently she doesn't like the aspersions the research casts on the healthiness of legalised abortion. But how can she assume that not having an abortion may be more detrimental to women's health? If it is the case that the rise in abortions, since legalisation has been what has led to the increase in breast cancer, then we must face it.

Access to abortion has always been granted, legally, through the argument that continuing with a pregnancy may be bad for the health of the woman in question, so that is the reason cited in its defence. But we all know that is not the reason most women, certainly in the developed world, have abortions. I am not anti-abortion, but neither am I pro-hypocrisy.

It is not enough to say that because this latest study supports the views of the anti-abortionists, it must be ideologically motivated. Science is amoral; it has no scientific value, indeed, unless it is objective. How it is interpreted may support or denigrate any particular moral outlook, but that is a different matter.

Of course, we must not be naive: the anti-abortion movement is a huge propagandist force in America and we should scrutinise very carefully every utterance and be alert to the potential for abuse. This



Nigella Lawson

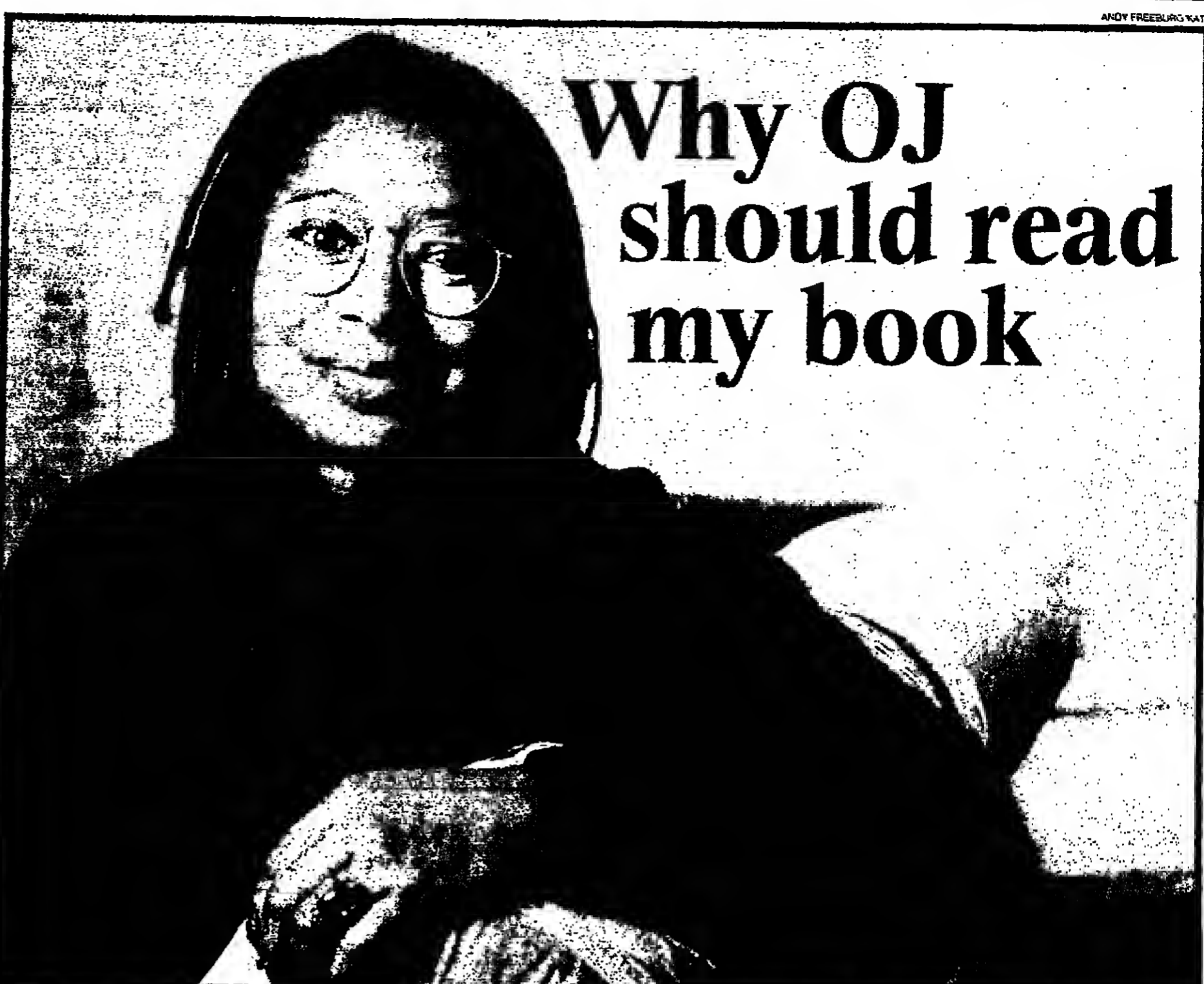
does not mean we must make up our minds in advance that anything which might give ammunition to the ideological enemy has to be wrong.

Publishing these findings may give concern, but is that reason to withhold information? Just because abortion is legal does not mean that it is agreeable, even without the cancer scare. Why should anyone hold that the guilt-free, misery-free abortion should be desirable, when it cannot, surely, be appropriate, or frankly even possible?

I have written before (when exclaiming at the impertinence of the Government's refusal to inform the public about the possible dangers of certain chemicals in infant formula) that after the birth of my first child I was told by someone who had done research into cot death that bottle-fed babies were significantly more vulnerable to cot death than breast-fed babies. But, she told me, no one wanted to release this information officially because of the consternation it would cause.

It should be stressed that no one knows what causes cot death, but these findings must still be considered. I can see the argument for caution — we must be measured, we must resist alarmism — but we mustn't ignore or, even worse, take it upon ourselves to hide from others that which is unpleasant to consider.

And it can get a little more



# Why OJ should read my book

Alice Walker says that O.J. Simpson might not have become a wife-beater if he had read *The Color Purple* and understood the pain and humiliation from a woman's viewpoint

Alice Walker lives in a spectacular isolation on top of a golden hill in northern California for much of the year. The nearest town is a place of one street, three cafés and an antique petrol pump that might have been painted by Norman Rockwell. It is a world away from the violence of Los Angeles, where the notorious murder of a white couple two years ago triggered a furore that has scarcely abated since. Ms Walker did not know the victims, but she takes their deaths as a personal affront.

Her best-known book, *The Color Purple*, was a story of incest, misogyny and women's courage in the black American South. Since its publication 14 years ago millions have read it and millions more have seen Steven Spielberg's film adaptation. O.J. Simpson, apparently, was not among them.

"If O.J. had read it and felt the pain and humiliation of violence from a woman's point of view, if he had had art to help him feel the woman's suffering, it would have been much harder for him to be a banterer," she says. "Art absolutely works. That's one of the reasons people often hate it." Ms Walker is famous not only as a writer but also as a hugger, laughter, bisexual, impromptu dancer and avid communicator with the spirits. But it would be a mistake to underestimate her seriousness. I had half expected to be swept up in some wild pagan embrace by way of a greeting. Instead she did what, on reflection, you might expect a Pulitzer Prize-winning icon of feminism to do with yet another interviewer. She shook hands gravely.

Dressed in comfortable writing clothes and thick socks forced into flip-flops, she led the way through a low-rise wooden house to a broad balcony overlooking the vineyards of Anderson Valley. *The Color Purple*, she says, became "a thing around which people could organise against wife-beating, incest, sexism, a whole range of things." The trouble was that not everyone

responded constructively. Thousands of black men, unlike O.J. Simpson, read the book, saw the film and condemned them as degrading of their race and gender. It did not help that the film's director was Jewish and — in the pre-Schindler's List era — synonymous with film-making at its frothiest.

Meanwhile, she was coping simultaneously with her mother's death, being betrayed by her lover, and a debilitating three-year illness. What should have been a triumphant time in her career turned into an ordeal that drained her of the energy to answer her critics.

Ten years on she has recovered enough to bare her soul in a new book, *The Same River Twice: Honoring The Difficult*. It is a sketchy account of the classic novelist's trauma of surrendering to Hollywood, a risk she took mainly to bring her book to blacks who had not or could not read it.

As a creative endeavour it is thin. It consists of her (unused) screenplay for *The Color Purple* and a collection of diary entries from her time on the set, followed by articles written by others about the film and letters written to her in the tumult after its release.

But creativity was not the point. "Before anything else it's a record," she says. "And people of colour in this culture have to keep their own records, because there is a history of distortion of how it really was."

She insists she has nothing against black men even though one of them, her ex-lover Robert Allen, admitted having an affair just when her need for emotional support was at a peak. She also points out that she agreed to work with a Jewish, male, director mainly because he was the only one who wanted to film her book.

Spielberg was "green and supple," she says. Meaning naive? She denies it, but reveals him more than once as unaware of the insults American culture doles out unconsciously to blacks.

For example, he was looking for ways to include her in the film and suggested she appear holding his newborn son, Max. She declined without saying why. But three years later she wrote Spielberg a letter, that appears in the book, explaining that his suggestion had smacked of racial stereotyping and upset her deeply.

Neither does she shrink from more prickly kinds of record-keeping. She regrets not having made as much money from the film as she expected and criticises the studio's accounting methods.

"I have money," she says. "I don't grieve over what they didn't give me, because I'm happy. I just wonder if they are."

There is something of the fortress about this hilltop retreat. Behind a hefty wooden gate it provides a redoubt in the battles for her many causes. She has planted her 40 acres with saplings to begin reversing rampant logging. In her view of the world the evil that white men do has got the better of them, and of most of the planet. But then she offers a startlingly optimistic view: black and white people are irresistibly attracted to each other.

Before it turned nasty, the kind of relationship O.J. Simpson had with his murdered ex-

lawyer and moved with him to Mississippi. Inter-racial marriage was still illegal there, and they were the state's only inter-racial couple. They suffered taunts, stares and unendurable stress. Asked why they divorced seven years later, she replies with one word: "Exhaustion."

● *The Same River Twice* is published by *The Women's Press* tomorrow at £15.99. It can be ordered through *The Times Bookshop*, tel: 0345-660916

## The filming of *The Color Purple* was a saga almost as painful as the book itself. Interview with Alice Walker by Giles Whittell

reversing rampant logging. In her view of the world the evil that white men do has got the better of them, and of most of the planet. But then she offers a startlingly optimistic view: black and white people are irresistibly attracted to each other.

Before it turned nasty, the kind of relationship O.J. Simpson had with his murdered ex-

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Alan Coren



2,000,000,001: a space odyssey — or is it just another tall story?

How time, if Einstein's shade will forgive me, flies! It seems like only yesterday that you and I were waving goodbye to that nice young couple as they set off for the stars on Pioneer 10...

And, in that same time, how much further have those they left behind got? Just one inch: for that, we learnt this week, was the increase in height achieved by the average man since 1971...

For the couple on Pioneer 10 were precisely that. They were not in Pioneer 10, as a real live couple might have been. They were engraved, as you may now recall, on the flank of it...

Look at the snapshot atop this column. Does it depict an amoeba? A mollusc, even? No, it does not; but it would have done, once. And not so long ago either...

Forget infinity: let us hop forward a mere million years, to the point where Pioneer 10 has at last collided with alien clever dicks on the far side of whatever the near side might be...

Though I shall not, thank God, be there to see it, I fear for the possible outcome of all this. Suppose the things from Planet X not only so like what they see on the side of Pioneer 10 but are also so technologically advanced as to be able to do something about it...



A better class of waffle

Politicians such as Tony Blair are always saving the family — but we will survive without being baked into a moral rabbit pie

A publicist advises a politician in trouble always to be photographed embracing his wife. If in deep trouble he should include his children...

Mr Blair may be in no trouble at all. His wife and children may be safely under lock and key. The Shadow Cabinet may have been vetted by Mandelson's Taliban...

Labour wishes to revive a decent working-class society in which "parents did their duty". A new sense of parental responsibility would ease the burden of the welfare state...

Mr Blair is nothing if not cunning. He wants to pin blame for society's ills on the Tories. He implies that politics over the past decade has contributed to its perceived moral decline...

"family unit" includes single parents and homosexual couples. Thus the Tories are to blame for moral decay, but reifying it will lie as much with "the family unit" as with new Labour...

New Labour is stalling on communitarianism. I still have no idea how the Shadow Cabinet proposes to "empower" communists...

Simon Jenkins

There are only two options to draw from this bizarre turn of events. Either Mr Blair's speech was mere electoral Muzak, "feel-good" phraseology devoid of content...

Mr Blair has just spent a painful decade disentangling himself from his historic commitment to "public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange"...

Mr Blair is always refreshing in debate, so let us press him further. He equates family and community. Philosophers normally link family with the individual. The family as an institution sits over against the "community"...

Mr Blair is always refreshing in debate, so let us press him further. He equates family and community. Philosophers normally link family with the individual...

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having enough trouble equating parental choice with selective entry to grammar schools. If Mr Blair wants to give "the family" primacy in access to schools, hospitals and public housing...

I assume what he means in practice is more laws, more intervention and less individual liberty. Mr Blair says he has no desire to interfere in people's personal lives. In that case, what is this new "moral and social code" that he believes should be shaping our society...

I wish for advice on how to conduct my marriage or bring up my child. I will not ask a politician. If Mr Blair thinks Britain is sunk into social and moral decline...

Mr Blair used to be an eminently practical speaker. His party conference, hinted at a new and alarming millenarianism. A magnetic force appears to be drawing him away from the dispatch box and towards the Mount of Olives...

Nothing to lose but new chains

Jonathan Mirsky remembers Peking's political prisoners

This has been a busy week for Peking's jailers. Cell doors are swinging open and banging shut. Out this week came Yao Wenyuan, one of the two surviving members of the Gang of Four...

Before he suddenly became one of Mao's favourite authors, for one work only, Mr Yao, now 64, was a party writer in Shanghai churning out hortatory essays. But in 1965 he wrote a newspaper feature criticising a play by Wu Han...

Yao had been brought to Mao's attention by Jiang Qing, his wife. Together with two other sycophants, Zhang Chunqiao and Wang Hongwen, they formed what immediately after Mao's death in 1976 was called the Gang of Four...

Seventeen years later, in the spring of 1989, two nights before the Tiananmen killings, I sat in a small Peking flat, thick with tobacco smoke, and helped Liu Xiaobo, now 37, a university lecturer and three of his friends, including Hou Dejian...

Last week Mr Liu and Wang Xizhe, another implacable dissident, published a petition calling for press freedom, government action against Japan which occupies disputed islands in the East China Sea...

I doubt whether this will crush Mr Liu; I can still see him, the young university lecturer, racing from group to group in late April 1989 during the early days in Tiananmen Square...

Wang Dan may be only 27, but in the Chinese State's eyes he is a deep-dyed counter-revolutionary. He disappeared in Peking 18 months ago, not long before the anniversary of Tiananmen, where he had been easily the most impressive figure...

Mr Wang came to public attention in 1989, when he was a freshman at the elite Peking University where his father taught. That spring he organised 17 "salons" where liberal intellectuals spoke informally to students...

A very cool slender youth in a zippered jacket, Mr Wang spoke quietly in Tiananmen Square to hushed crowds, and in a late-night meeting on May 19 with the Prime Minister, Li Peng...

Brushed off

TWO LEADING art historians are headed for the libel court after one of them, a catalogue of the Queen's art collection, described the other as "an ignoramus" and "rather presumptuous"...

Professor James Beck, a veteran of the art history department at New York's Columbia University, has issued a writ against his opposite number at Harvard, Professor John Shearman...

"I hope that you will understand that James Beck is a rather presumptuous person and, as an ignorant... he has little authority," wrote Shearman, Sir Ernest Gombrich, the art critic, has

signed a petition supporting Beck's stance on the frescoes. But Shearman, for whom the term "dry as an unbuttered biscuit" might have been invented, groans at the mention of his adversary: "I never wanted to stir up controversy"...

Over or the glossy magazine emporium Conde Nast, there is chaos in the offices of its latest



"It could be your maternity bra..."

magazine GQ Active. The editor, Francis Gorton, has resigned just days after getting his feet under the desk. "We find it rather strange," admits a spokeswoman through gritted, but perfect, teeth.

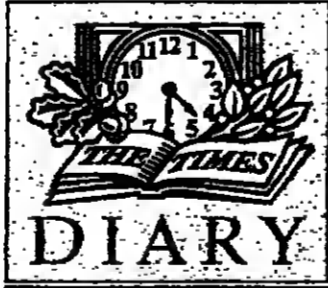
Squeaking

AMONG THE sleek and pampered guests at the Savoy Hotel in London is one who does not pay any bills. A fearless mouse has been spotted in the Thames Foyer, scampering around the garboba. The hotel has just undergone extensive refurbishment and redecoration but the mouse survived the upheaval...

"This is a brave mouse," says the unflappable lady who spotted it recently. "It sauntered about in the middle of the room, enjoying the attention." The hotel is investigating.

The Pango

THEY TALK only of ballroom dancing at the Governor's residence in Hong Kong. Chris Patten is being encouraged to take up the sport in order to woo Chinese support before the handover in 1997. Dancing is the colony's latest craze. Society functions are no longer complete without a frenzied dis-



play and considers for the post of Chief Executive after the English leave has been practising their steps. One candidate, Peter Woo, a frightfully rich businessman, so dazzled diners at a recent function that he received a standing ovation. "Chris Patten has been forced into taking a few turns at dinner," one social observer says. "He needs lessons — Angela Rippon should steady herself for a call."

Doggerel

LATEST to face the teeth of the quarantine laws is Lady Broomfield, wife of Sir Nigel Broomfield, British Ambassador in Bonn. She says she would rather put down Katie, her 13-year-old English springer spaniel, than see her endure kennels for six months when the family returns to Britain in March.

So strong are her feelings that Williams Waldgrave has been talking of the verbal lashing he received when he once stayed with the Broomfields in Bonn. He subsequently advised those planning to visit the Ambassador's residence to stay in a hotel — unless, of course they were fond of dogs.

Bottoms up

STANDING aloof from the celebrations for Alexander McQueen's elevation to chief designer at Givenchy are his former employers, the Savile Row tailors Anderson & Sheppard. "He was only here for a couple of months," said a manager at the shop. "No one remembers him."

Gieves & Hawkes, McQueen's next employers, were more generous. "He is remembered for being extremely enthusiastic and conscientious," Robert Gieves says. The nation's plumbers and builders, whose trademark is the "cleavage" trouser line known as builders bottom, side with Gieves & Hawkes rather than with the sour faces at Anderson & Sheppard. It was McQueen who took them into the realm of haute couture with his brow-moppingly chic "bumster" trousering.



"Bumster" trousers, taking the plumber onto the catwalk

P.H.S

















STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Share rise ready for pause after new high

THE London stock market was showing signs of running out of steam last night and is expected to open lower across the board when trading resumes this morning.



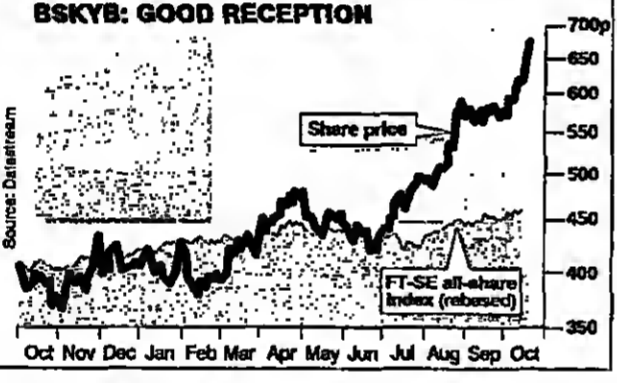
Water shares fell as Ofwat's Ian Byatt revealed new plans

As one leading market-maker told The Times: "The market is starting to look tired after a good run and everybody has got stock. The options are due to expire later this week and there are a lot of open positions out there."

international marketing group headed by Mark McCormack, have been tipped as potential suitors. But the Manchester United board still controls more than 20 per cent of the shares and that seems to rule out the prospect of an aggressive bid being made.

Standard Chartered fell 18p to 693.5p as its own broker Cazenove turned seller. It has told clients it has become cautious about the Far East loan book and that the shares are starting to look expensive.

price ending 12p below its year's high at 663p. Brokers have been discounting claims that the group is in talks with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, about a possible merger.



BSKYB: GOOD RECEPTION

ing the disposal of its Bain Hogg insurance broking arm for £60 million to Aon. But the deal is likely to dilute Incheape earnings and BZW has accordingly reduced its forecast by £15 million to £175 million.

The Raek, the niche retailer, received the thumbs-up to half-year figures showing better than expected pre-tax profits of £604,000 compared with £490,000 for the corresponding period.

A profits warning left Wakebourne nursing a fall of 4 1/2p at a five-year low of 16p after the group said that second-half results would be well short of expectations.

over of almost seven million shares. It follows a bullish statement to shareholders by Rupert Murdoch at News Corp's annual meeting at which he painted a bright picture of prospects for satellite television. He said: "With regard to BSKYB's profit this year, it will be up again."

In the futures pit the December series of the long gilt rose £1.22 to £110.25.22 as 46,000 contracts were completed.

FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 63671 Dec '96 4362.0 High: 4102.0 Low: 4078.0 Set: 4159.0

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (EEX Index, AD), Sydney (ASX), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX), London (FT 100, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 1000, FTSE 10000, FTSE 100000, FTSE 1000000, FTSE 10000000, FTSE 100000000, FTSE 1000000000), and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including AEA Technology, Altech, Amer Opps U Ln, Brunner Mond, Charles Taylor, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Davis Fin US nlp, FT Group n/p (103), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes including RISES: Elan, Micro Focus, Home Computers, etc.

TEMPUS Making an exhibition

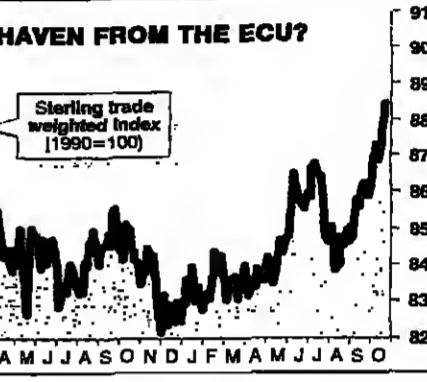
THE most surprising comment on United News & Media's takeover of Blenheim yesterday came from Lord Hollick. The chief executive of United said that in June his board had decided that 500p a share was not too much to pay for the exhibitions group.

delivering "a price with a five in front of it". Thanks to its determination, or perhaps thanks to VNU, United is paying a full price, but one that can be justified. Blenheim fits well with Miller Freeman, should yield cost savings, and a merger should yield cost savings.

Sterling

THE MOST reassuring explanation for the rise and fall of sterling is that there isn't one but many. One is the proposition that currency investors are fleeing a market that is to be impaled on the rack of European monetary union in 1999.

next few months, not currency convergence, and other factors have come into play. Oil price strength in Brent Crude has breached \$25 per barrel - a help to petrochemicals like sterling, but so is sterling's high yield.



A HAVEN FROM THE ECU?

Incheape

SIX MONTHS is a long time in the insurance market. In the spring, Bain Hogg was valued at £250 million, but yesterday Aon took the broker off Incheape's hands for £160 million.

Hogg flotation much of a reception. Incheape reckons that its shareholders are more interested in distribution than insurance.

JD Sports

PARENTS who resent paying fancy prices for their kids' trainers might consider a share in John David Sports. A decade ago, the craze for designer sportswear looked temporary, but brands such as Nike, Fila and Lacoste have prospered.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including FTSE 100, FTSE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies and terms.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies and sectors.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Beard & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK, etc.

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

Table of ICIS-LOR prices for crude oils.

PRODUCTS (6.00pm)

Table of product prices for various commodities.

WHEAT & BARLEY FUTURES

Table of wheat and barley futures prices.

POTATO FIBRE

Table of potato fibre prices.

RUBBER (RSS 1 & 2)

Table of rubber prices.

BITUMEN (UK Std)

Table of bitumen prices.

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FTSE 100

Table of FTSE 100 data.

FTSE 250

Table of FTSE 250 data.

Three Month Sterling

Table of Three Month Sterling data.

Three Month Euro DM

Table of Three Month Euro DM data.

Long Gilt

Table of Long Gilt data.

Japanese Govt Bond

Table of Japanese Govt Bond data.

German Govt Bond

Table of German Govt Bond data.

Three Month ECU

Table of Three Month ECU data.

Euro Swiss Franc

Table of Euro Swiss Franc data.

Italian Govt Bond

Table of Italian Govt Bond data.

LIFFE

Table of LIFFE stock prices.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of LIFFE options prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates.

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Table of sterling spot and forward rates.

مكتبة من الأصيل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vacant spot for Internet expert

AFTER his run-in with the Bank of England last week, Lord Mancroft probably knows more than most about the problems of Internet banking.

Last-minute deal

INCHCAPE took no chances with the disposal of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking subsidiary.



"Perhaps it's time we had a price review"

FRANK FIELD, the MP who chairs the Social Security Select Committee, has penned How to pay for the future: Building a stakeholder's welfare.

New fax, old facts

THE British Airways German subsidiary had a bad day yesterday. First a business paper reported BA would have its operations in the fatherland.

Sharp dressers

JOHN WARDLE and David Makin, respectively the founding chairman and chief executive of JD Sports, who will become multimillionaires on Monday when 30 per cent of the company is floated.

Water, water everywhere but never a drop in price

The Ofwat review signals a demand for the industry to improve, says Christine Buckley

The fresh review of water prices will go a little way to stem the recriminations that have welled up around the industry.

Last summer's drought, after one of the wettest winters on record, brought restrictions and heaped public approbation on the water companies.

Elsewhere hosepipes were declared a luxury while some customers were poisoned by their water company's nupturings and incensed environmentalists complained of dirty beaches.

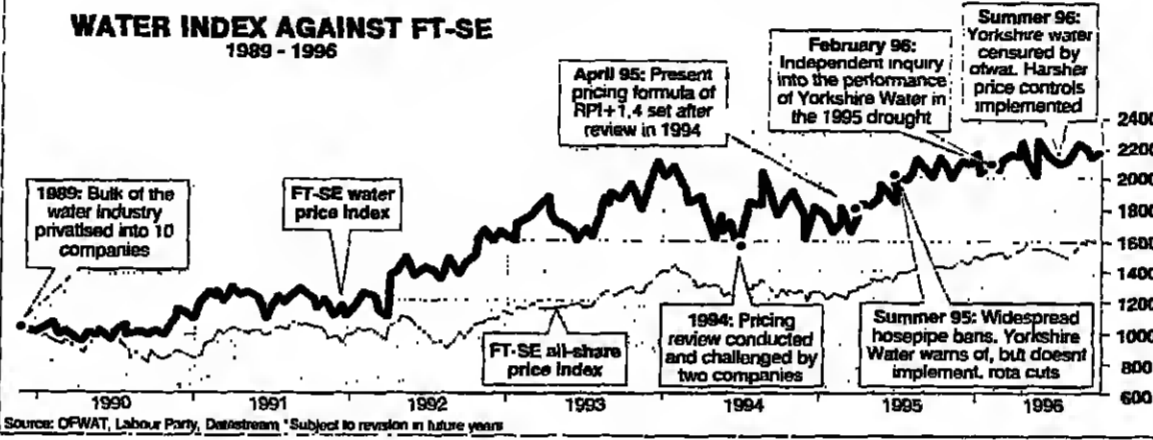
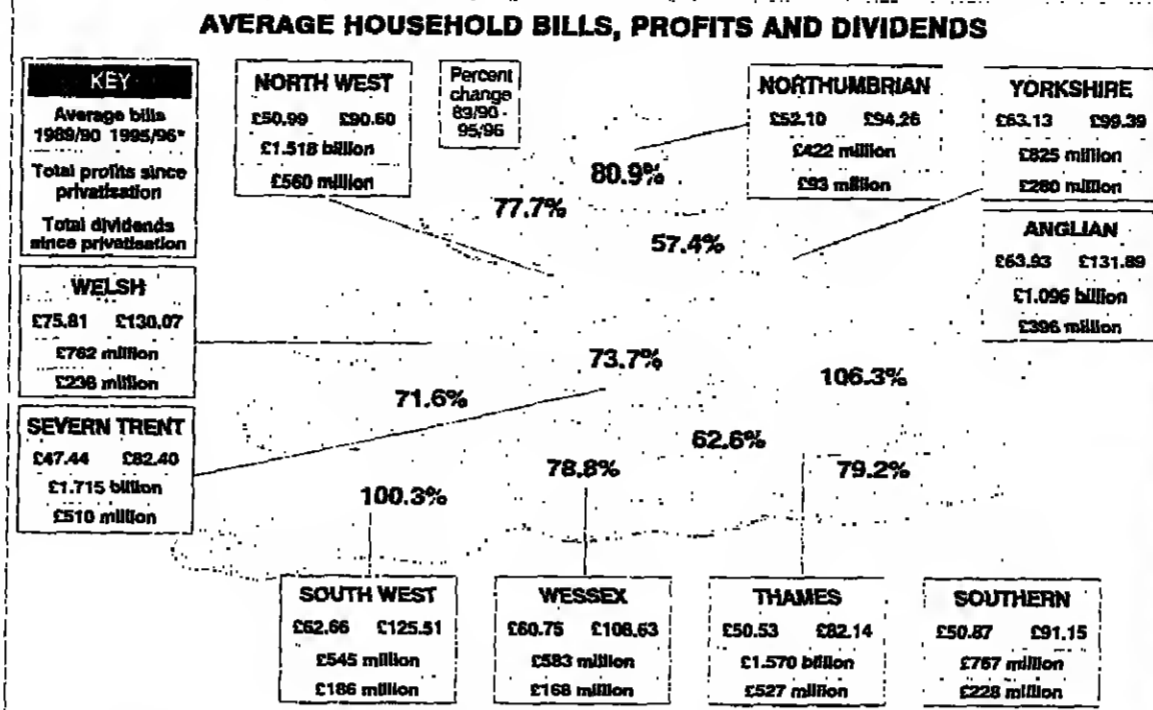
According to the Labour Party, and a host of consumer groups, the water industry has been descending into farce.

Small wonder that Labour has mounted a concerted attack on the water companies since last summer's drought.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, has fought a campaign against the framework under which the water industry was sold into the private sector.

Mr Dobson has complained that since the sale of the regional companies in England and Wales they have produced profits of £10 billion and have paid out dividends of £3 billion.

According to the Centre for Regulation of Industries, unmeasured water bills — the majority of bills covering those households not on meters — have risen more than 77 per cent across England and Wales since the ten largest companies were sold in 1989 and joined the 19 smaller private companies already in commercial hands.



their bills more than double. In a naturally monopolistic industry price controls are all the more crucial to deliver the customer benefits that competition might be expected to produce.

Increasing prices in water have been excused by the regulatory guidelines and by the companies as a means to fund the large amounts of investment needed to maintain the network.

The all-party committee will question all the utility regulators on the back of a critical report from the National Audit Office, the public-sector watchdog. Political scrutiny in this government will precede a greater shake-up of the regulatory process if Labour wins the next election.

The decision is a recognition that last summer's shortages in supply had got out of hand

Mr Byatt, whose review of the pricing controls ahead of the scheduled date had been largely expected although its timing has been a surprise, is also seeking to exert tougher control over water supply.

Mr Byatt, who has condemned such amalgamations on many occasions unless they can deliver sufficient customer benefits, is keen to fire warning shots to the effect that if companies can produce cost efficiencies by mergers they can also serve up

customer benefits through price constraint. The reference in the announcement of the new review that Mr Byatt will be looking closely at the ability of the companies to maintain supplies and control leakage is a clear signal to the companies that they have three years — the date of the new review — in which to improve their performance to the customers.

It is also a recognition that the shortages in supply of last summer had got out of hand. He is stipulating that if savings are made in the companies then a substantial amount must be ploughed back into investment.

Mr Byatt's demands on the privatised water industry characterise the dichotomy of commercial public services. They are driven by pressure from the City to produce short-term results in the form of dividends and profit increases, while the long-term needs of water provision demands consistent and plentiful investment.

After all, it is debatable whether hosepipes are indeed a household luxury. Without decisive action the laughable advice of Severn Trent to gardeners suffering from hosepipe bans to pave over their lawns may not seem quite so risible in future.

Alternative urban sources are saving money, Susan Pape finds

Firms tap into underground supply

Water source trials are being conducted by Coca-Cola & Cadbury Schweppes Beverages through a well recently sunk at its factory site in Wakefield, west Yorkshire.

After two long, hot summers and an exceptionally dry winter, drought is an ever-present threat. Even as winter approaches, rainfall levels are reported to be the second-lowest in 200 years.

According to David Lerner, of the department of civil and environmental engineering, at the University of Bradford, millions of gallons of untapped water are trapped under the streets of Britain's towns and cities in aquifers.

It was a different matter at the turn of the century when the local industry in cities like Bradford took its private water supply from boreholes. "But the practice went out of fashion as factories closed, and the privatised water companies came into being.



Steve Smith says Abbey National does not face restrictions in a drought

needs. Although there is a treatment, handling and management cost, the company reckons to save an average of £150,000 a year.

At Abbey National's head office in Baker Street, London, an underground spring discovered 50 years ago supplies all the building's water needs.

Organisations wishing to drill for water must apply to the Environment Agency for a licence. Getting one is not a foregone conclusion. Much depends on the local geology and whether water is available — and in what quantity.

However, Michael Price, a hydrogeologist at the University of Reading, believes there is a plentiful supply. "There is far more in the ground than there is in all the lakes and reservoirs put together," he said.

"However if climate changes are going to bring wetter winters, and drier summers are predicted, water storage becomes very important. I would say that aquifers are the perfect storage places — and they are generally underneath towns and cities."

Professor Lerner's studies have taken him to Nottingham where unused groundwater levels are so high that flooding is a risk, a problem that also threatens some London basements, and to Merseyside, where underground water levels, kept down in the past by extensive use, are now rising.

BUSINESS LETTERS

More British Gas tales of billing errors, delays and cut-off threats

From Mr R. A. Turner Sir, My gas bill, although dated August 2, was actually delivered during the last week of August.

However, it included a further 42 days' standing charge (to September 13 instead of August 2), and curiously makes no mention of any payment being received.

Truth or despair?

From Mr Alan Robinson Sir, In the light of the recent British Gas "new computerised" billing debacle how can Stuart Beadle (Business Letters, October 8) be sure his "new computerised communications system" is telling him (and us) the truth?

Labour has recognised the potential of BT and we should hope this partnership continues. BT, especially, provides a good service and has managed to produce some large profits, despite hefty regulation.

Don't hinder Britain's successful utilities

From Mr Tom Derry Sir, It seems there needs to be a major readjustment in thinking on the privatised utilities — particularly concerning British Gas and British Telecom, which have become major international players and companies of which the British can be proud in pulling profits successfully into this country.

Let us not hinder success stories too much. Yours faithfully, TOM DERRY, 2 Park Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.

Leak from Lloyd's is welcome after traumas

From Mr Allan F. Hepburn Sir, I really must take issue with Mr Robert Hiseox's letter (Business Letters, October 8), in which he implies that if the news about the bonus to be paid to the chairman of Lloyd's had not been leaked by a member of Council we would be totally unaware of the fact until such time as Lloyd's chooses to announce it publicly, for ratification at

next year's Lloyd's AGM, for example. Why the need for secrecy in the interim? Surely after the horrendous traumas at Lloyd's over the last ten years, there is a need for total transparency in these matters?

Extension of Docklands Light Railway

From Mr Neil Sprinks Sir, I welcome unreservedly the Docklands Light Railway extension to Lewisham, announced in your business section ("DLR link goes ahead", September 28).

over present travel, you mention a journey time from Lewisham to the City of 30 minutes: South Eastern Trains, ex-BR, already get you from Lewisham to Cannon Street in as little as 12 minutes!

THE TIMES Subscriptions

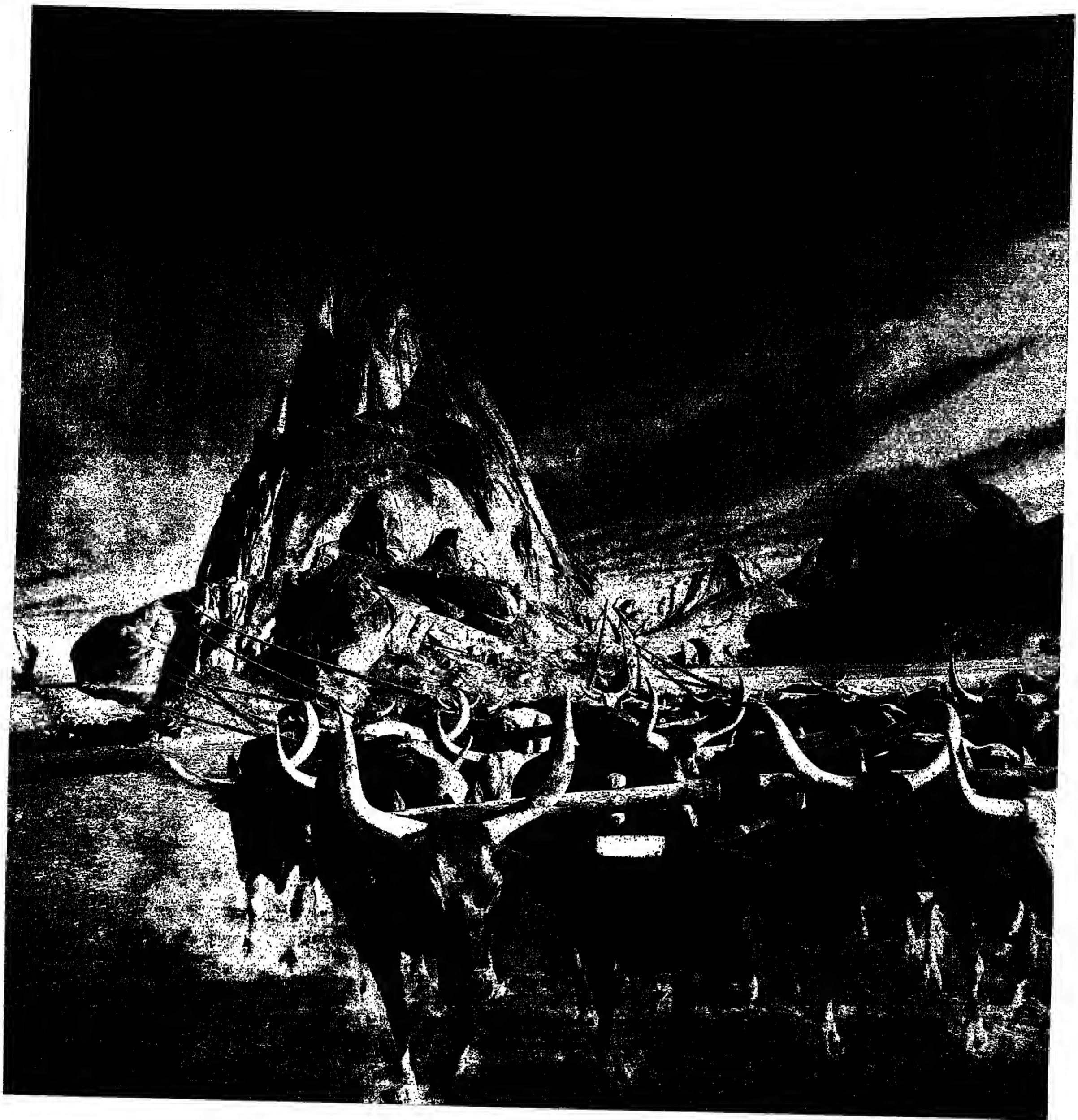
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MUSIC 1

A string quartet setting of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* receives its British premiere next month...



MUSIC 2

... and in the same festival of American music, unknown works by Frank Zappa are also aired

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 3

Richard Hickox presides over a forward-looking 25th anniversary party for the orchestra he began



FAST RISING

Straight out of school, straight into the West End: two teenagers on the thespian road

# A Howl for all seasons

Allen Ginsberg's poetry interpreted by a string quartet? Nigel Williamson reports

When the Kronos Quartet made its debut at New York's Carnegie Hall with Allen Ginsberg in 1994, the poet got very excited at the prospect of unnering four-letter words in that revered house of culture. "He was right. That's what it's all about," says David Harrington, the leader of the quartet, which for 23 years has been at the forefront of contemporary music, commissioning and performing some of the most challenging music of our time.

### FESTIVAL DETAILS

American Independents, "a celebration of the maverick voices of American music, dance, literature and visual art", runs at the South Bank Centre in London until November 19. Highlights include a London Sinfonietta series with John Adams conducting the premiere of his new *Gnarly Buttons*, and the UK premieres of two works by the late Frank Zappa. Other music ranges from John Cage and Charles Ives to Burt Bacharach, rock and modern jazz. Bookings and information: 0171-960 4242



Iconoclasts united: the Kronos Quartet and (front) Allen Ginsberg have collaborated on a musical setting of *Howl*

Harrington did not mean that either Ginsberg or the Kronos Quartet seeks to shock out of a mindless desire to outrage. He is far too purposeful for that. Shock, he believes, is a vital weapon in art, a device to break down barriers and destroy stultifying convention. "I don't subscribe to the idea that quartets consist of two violins, a viola and a cello playing in some cloister on a Sunday afternoon," he says. "That's not the music I know, whether it's Beethoven, Haydn or anything else. I have spent my career trying to bring the world we know into this medium called music."

So why is a musical setting of a poem published 40 years ago the highlight of a programme showcasing contemporary America? Harrington has no doubt. "As time goes on, *Howl* gets larger in its scope. Ginsberg described the poem as an emotional time bomb, and it is still going off continually. There are so many images that have become indelibly printed on the American psyche that it is part of the American experience. And it is still relevant."

Ginsberg's nightmare vision of American society, which encapsulated the Beat philosophy, has continued to strike a chord with every new rebellious generation. Hyla, who set it to music, was one year old when Ginsberg wrote the 25-minute-long poem. Members of the Kronos Quartet were not much older. Yet the result of their collaboration is stunning, disturbing and beautiful at the same time. "I wanted music that chal-

lenged the words, that didn't necessarily put the poem on the back, but was arguing with it," says Harrington.

Ginsberg was coaxed into reading his greatest poem in a studio for the first time. Hyla's complicated score, with its elaborate timings which have the quartet cueing off rhythms and speech in the text, had to be adapted during the recording as Ginsberg contributed to the process. "As a poet, he is like a performing musician," says Harrington. "You can feel his centre of energy. It was like playing a quintet with a master saxophone player, except that Allen's voice was the fifth instrument."

The Kronos Quartet has just released the studio recording of *Howl* on an album of highly political material, right down to the tattered and torn American flag by Robert Mapplethorpe on the cover. Uniquely for the quartet, throughout the album the words enjoy equal status with the music. Also included are the chilling voice of former FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, with music by Michael Daugherty, some found poetry in the inscriptions by

hobos on a fence-post 50 years ago in a composition by Harry Partch, and Scott Johnson's setting of the voice of L.F. Stone, the great liberal commentator.

"It never started out as an album," Harrington says. "We commissioned the works over five years and it only became clear much later that there was a larger sense of geometry to those pieces. Hoover had secret files on Ginsberg and L.F. Stone."

Harrington and the Kronos Quartet are relentless promoters, patrons and performers of contemporary music, sound juries forever seeking new composers. There are currently 45 new works under commission and one sometimes wonders whether serious modern composition could even survive without Kronos.

Driving Harrington is his perfectionism. A quest for "the musical equivalent of Einstein looking for the theory that said everything, I would like to find an album that in this confined amount of time explains it all. To me, that is the challenge." In his search, Harrington has left few musical avenues

unexplored. The composers currently writing for Kronos come from every part of the world. Even as *The Times* interviewed him over breakfast, Harrington was enthusing about contacting a new composer in Russia whom he had been told about after the previous night's concert.

One of the quartet's most successful albums was *Pieces of Africa*, featuring compositions from Morocco, Uganda, South Africa, The Gambia

and Sudan. While painters such as Modigliani and Picasso absorbed African influences, Harrington says it is "shameful" that Western musicians for so long ignored the continent's music. "Can you imagine what it would have been like if Beethoven had heard music from Zimbabwe, how different musical culture might have been?"

● The Kronos Quartet are at the Festival Hall on Nov 19. *Howl* USA is available on Nonesuch

### GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament  
ADAM CHALK, DANIEL PIRRIE

Age: Chalk (left) is 18, Pirrie is 19.

Profession: Actors.

Appearing in: *Never the Sinner* at the Arts Theatre in Covent Garden from tomorrow.

Aren't they a bit young for the West End? Indeed, but they are sickeningly mature and well-adjusted. They have both just left school, as has the production. John Logan's 1985 courtroom drama *Never the Sinner* was staged by King's College School, Wimbledon, to celebrate its centenary. The production then scored a great hit on the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. The boys' acting was described as "staggeringly good".

They must be jolly nervous. "I'm not too nervous," says Pirrie. "Edinburgh was a great preparation. I had never done any lead acting before and I remember at the dress rehearsal I was hopeless, but it eventually went well." "I go very quiet and feel ill," says Chalk. "And my nerves go sky-high."

So are they bonafide lovies? Far from it — they even wear jackets and ties for interviews. Being sensible lads they are going to get degrees first. Pirrie is to read English at Cambridge, and Chalk is going to Newcastle to read politics and East Asian studies. "A degree would be a good insurance policy," says Pirrie. "I want three years of living the student life," says Chalk. "After that it will be full steam ahead." "I'm a bit more cautious than you, Daniel," says Chalk.

They sound like a double act. To an extent. "We've been friends for eight years, and we're going travelling to the Far East and Australia during our year off."

Their schoolfriends must be seething with jealousy. "Everyone's been really happy for us and they are sharing in our success — they're coming from as far away as Newcastle to watch us. But nothing changes — we still go out to pubs in Wimbledon. It's not as if we're huge stars." Yet.

Are they similar to the characters they play? Adam: "I'm a bit more happy-go-lucky than mine — he's obsessive and has no time for those he considers his inferiors. I'm pretty different." Daniel: "My character is a charmer and a womaniser. I wouldn't say that I was too far from that."

GUY WALTERS



### CONCERTS: Richard Hickox conducts an eclectic weekend of new works

## Here is the new from London

THE NEXT three concerts by the City of London Sinfonia feature Beethoven, Schumann, Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel. Its members could be forgiven, then, for looking less than relaxed with free improvisation during their twenty-fifth anniversary weekend at the Barbican. *Playing in the New*. But it is an open-minded, flexible team, and if the programme lacked high radical ambition, Richard Hickox engendered a quiet sense of exploration. The

composers — Diana Burrell, Priti Paintal, Mirna Keal, Judith Weir, John Tavener, Barry Guy and Peter Maxwell Davies — form an eclectic lineup, sharing only an amiable approach to performers.

One disappointment was Judith Weir's *Two Human Hymns*: the crafty metaphysical conceits of George Herbert and Henry King surely demand more than loveliness from their music.

But if there was little to assault the ears, there were opportunities to revisit familiar sounds in new ways: the eerie wail of a French horn keening off key beside sitar and Chinese dulcimer in Paintal's semi-improvisatory *Blowing the Fuse*; two women's voices high and dry above the turbulent cross-currents of Maxwell Davies's virtuosic *Westering* (performed by the Joyful Company of Singers); and the glorious rough edge



Richard Hickox: showing "a quiet sense of exploration"

provided by ratcheting wood-block and flutter-tongued cor anglais to Diana Burrell's voluptuous song cycle *Dunkelwilde Mönesträder*. Burrell, the orchestra's composer-in-association, has set two impassioned poems by the Dane Tove Ditlevsen for con-

trato, using the cor anglais to reveal the violence behind the poet's death wish, wrapped up as it is in seductive imagery.

Simon Spear's *New Ribbons*, selected from the CLS/Society for the Promotion of New Music's workshop, provided a festive concert overture with real rhythmic vitality.

Bassist and composer Barry Guy is a force of nature. Always on the edge of anarchy, at his best he can pack chaos into concrete structures to make exquisite music. His hugely demanding *Concerto for Orchestra*, *Follingwater*, reveals both his wildness and his ability to master it, but the CLS has not yet found a balance between the two.

Still, this was a weekend for "playing in" the new in all senses. Some of these premieres deserve further warming up.

HELEN WALLACE

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FILM Tough and ready: actor Ian Hart has risen fast by playing a succession of memorable cameos



THEATRE 1 David Mamet's early play, The Woods, receives its belated first British staging

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2 Less lust, more laughs: George Cole leads a politically correct revival of Lock Up Your Daughters



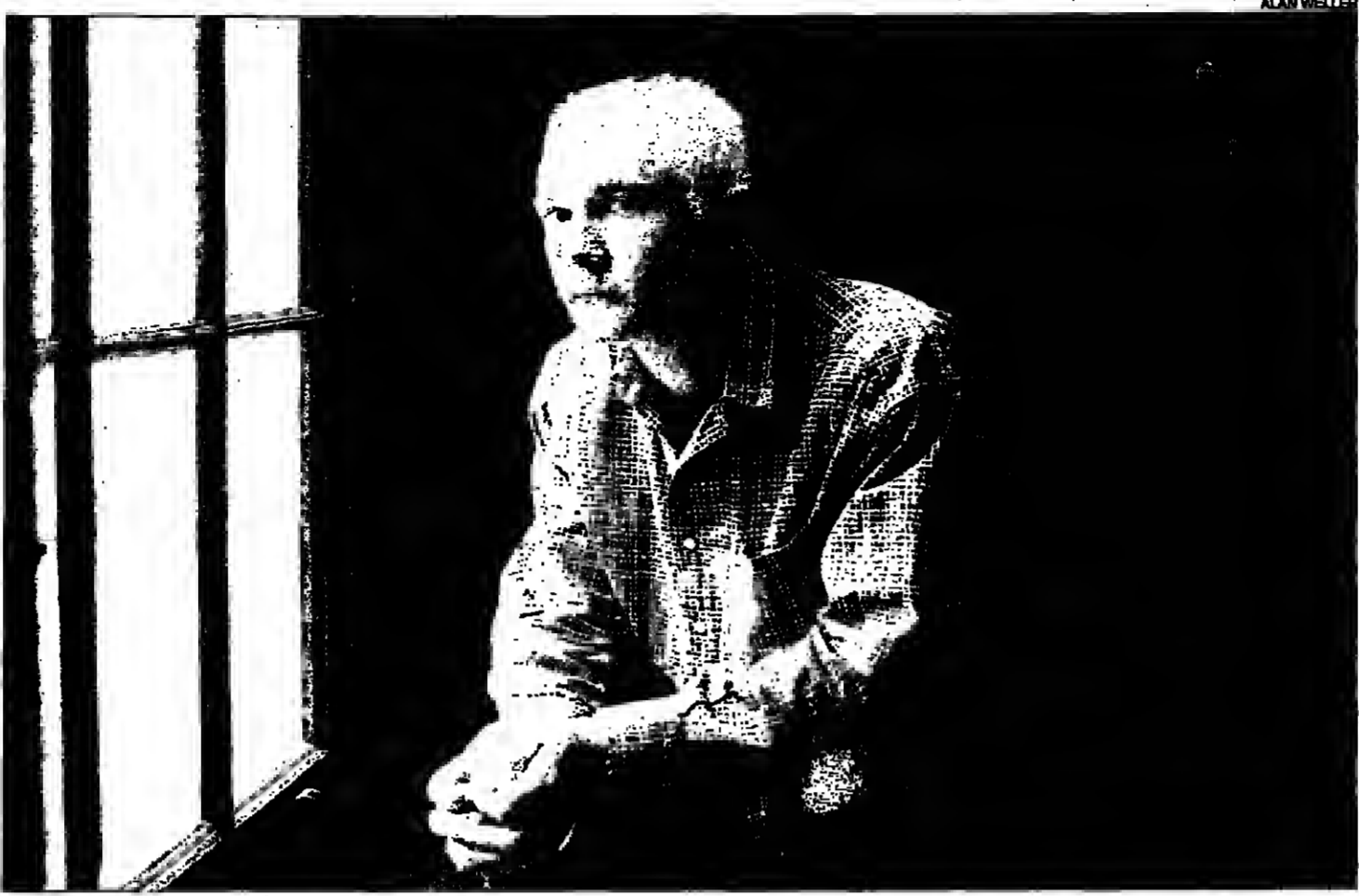
TOMORROW Keven Costner in Tin Cup and all the other new movies: read Geoff Brown's review

Life's a screen for action man

CINEMA: Britain's busiest young actor finds time to talk to Carol Allen

For an actor in a country where comparatively few films are made, Ian Hart seems to be in a remarkable number of them.

Not all those roles, though, Hart is quick to point out, are leads. His normally brown hair, currently closely cropped and dyed blond, is the result of a three-day stint he has just done in Cumbria on Michael Radford's film B Monkey.



No rest for the wicked: Ian Hart has dyed his hair blond to play another villain in Michael Radford's B Monkey - "it's enjoyable to do"

from anybody else and they're four-time murderers who've just done 15 years. People like Ginger don't live in derelict houses wearing ski masks all day long.

In the Legion of Mary, but by the time I got to about 12 I was beginning to rebel, because you couldn't debate something with a nun or a priest. I couldn't wait to get out of it, it was very repressive."

which is maybe why he is willing to accept cameo roles as well as leads. Hart was a small boy in Liverpool in the 1960s, when the Beatles were in their heyday.

that I'm 15 now, and you're still saying it. Will you stop it, please. Like all young people, we wanted to find something that was ours."

MUSICAL: A Fifties frolic revived

Safe sex for the Nineties

BACK IN 1959, when the Macmillan Government still had several years to go before it was engulfed in sexual scandals, a version of this play-with-music delighted the town for months.

The result is that a collection of overstepping affairs now looks too mild to be provoking, yet not witty enough to survive on its other merits.

The show would be nothing without the lyrics. Lionel Bart provided for Laurie Johnson's pleasantly melodic music.

Lock Up Your Daughters Chichester

Friend, Salad Days, his own Fings Ain't Wat They Used T'Be and Oliver!, delighting in admitt rhythms, rapid phrasing and opportunities for musical pastiche.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Edited cockiness: George Cole and Sheila Hancock

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

THEATRE CLUB LONDON Centre Stage Until Nov 30 HOT from its success at the Edinburgh Festival. Requiem is Sue Casson and Simon Rae's satirical musical revue about the past 17 years of Tory rule.

THEATRE: Two London openings

Stormy thicket

WHEN applied to a playwright's work, the innocent adjective "early" is often code for not nearly as good as the famous stuff. Written in 1977, The Woods is relatively "early" David Mamet.

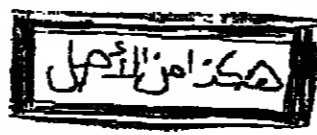
Spa-ing partners

AT LAST: Leamington Spa has what Iceland got centuries ago, a saga of its own. That is the pleasantly sedate town Stephen Bill apparently had in mind when he launched into a play that brings 18 performers on to the tiny Orange Tree stage.

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Rachel Kelly looks at how aristocrats are preserving family history by letting, rather than selling, ancestral homes

The Queen sparks rush to live like a king

A hundred years ago, the first issue of Country Life advertised the letting of Stowe House, Buckingham, the stately ancestral home of the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos...

Queen advertised in Country Life the lease of Ling House, a farmhouse on her Sandringham estate in Norfolk. She is only the latest in a line of estate owners to let their property...

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The Queen has advertised the lease of Ling House, the Duke of Northumberland let Chatton Park, and the Duke of Somerset put Bradley House, above, up for rent



Northumberland, who decided to let the property when he inherited Alnwick Castle in Northumberland. The motivation of owners is clear, says Andrew Jones...

The introduction of assured shorthold tenancies, which guarantee that the owner can reclaim his property so long as the lease is for longer than 21 years...

Barbara Blanchard, from John D. Wood's Hampshire office, recommends that such houses should not be let for more than a year at a time, with the option to renew on both sides.

Mr Wilkins adds that if the owner remains responsible, for repairs himself, he can keep an eye on the property and charge a higher rent.

As Rupert Bradstock, from the property buying agents Property Vision, says: "These grand houses are rarely the jewel in the landlord's crown, but even their second string is often of stately proportions. These are houses that money can't buy."

Law Report October 16 1996 Court of Appeal

Sick pay for part-time employee

Brown v Chief Adjudication Officer. Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell. [Unreported October 10]. An employer was liable for statutory sick pay in respect of a part-time employee who had been continuously employed for more than three months under a series of daily contracts...

and, accordingly subsections (1) and (2) [which set out minimum notice periods] shall apply to the contract. Miss Cheryl Booth, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield for the employee; Mr Michael Kent, QC, for the chief adjudication officer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the provisions relating to statutory sick pay were contained in Part XI of the 1992 Act. By section 151 where an employee had a day of incapacity for work the employer was to pay him sick pay in respect of that day, provided that three qualifying conditions were satisfied.

Section 49(4) did indeed apply to the claimant's case. The effect was that her contract of employment had become a contract for an indefinite period, which, under section 49(1)(a), was only terminable by not less than one week's notice, which notice was never given.

Procedure for hearings before judge in chambers amended

Practice Direction (Judge in Chambers): Amended Procedure. The hearing of summonses and appeals by the Queen's Bench Judge in Chambers is reorganised and expedited with immediate effect...

1 All inter partes applications and appeals to the Queen's Bench Judge in Chambers will initially be entered in a general list. They would be listed for hearing in Room E101 or some other room at the Royal Courts of Justice on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

(ii) the notice of appeal, or, as the case might be, the summons; (iii) the pleadings, if any; (iv) copies of all affidavits, together with copy exhibits thereon, upon which any party intended to rely; and (v) any relevant order made in the case.

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RACING: OWNER HARBOURS DOUBTS ABOUT MELBOURNE TRIP

Lehane aware of pitfalls facing Oscar Schindler

By OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

Curragh-based bachelor, 53, is now semi-retired but secure, having started his working life as a bank official...



Lehane realist

WHEN Oscar Schindler lines up for the Melbourne Cup on November 5, his owner Oliver Lehane's stomach will be knotted even tighter than usual...

wouldn't miss it. Racing has never been a passion for me. It's just so difficult for the small owner...

deal even on the horizon about Oscar Schindler's stud future. 'The offers so far have been ridiculous. I was offered £500,000 recently and my reply was: 'Which leg do you want for that?'

Lehane expanded his arcade business into Dublin and sold out profitably ten years ago. He now confines himself to an interest in a number of nursing homes in Belfast...



JULIAN HERBERT

Showboat takes first step to stardom

VETERAN owner-breeder Dick Hollingsworth has produced a stream of high-class horses over four decades and Showboat looks another booked for stardom after an impressive debut victory at Leicester yesterday.

Eddery went on to complete a double when giving Questonia a powerful ride to edge out Miss Riviera in a thrilling finish to the Fillies' Conditions Stakes.

16-1 [from 25-1] after it was revealed he would be ridden by Frankie Dettori. Harbour Island, trained by Michael Stoute, was ridden by the reigning champion when a staying-on fourth behind Flocheek at Ascot last Friday.

Coral yesterday took evasive action over Harbour Island for Saturday's Tote Cesarewitch, cutting his price to

HAYDOCK PARK RACING PROGRAM

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

WETHERBY RACING PROGRAM

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

THUNDERER RACING PROGRAM

KING'S REGIMENT CUP CONDITIONS STAKES

GOLDSBOROUGH JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

ASKHAM RICHARD NOVICES HURDLE

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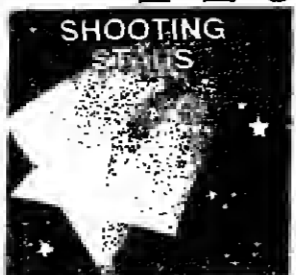
FORM FOCUS

WEAVER loses appeal against suspension

RACELINE

David Powell meets a former junior champion for whom tennis is history
Baily happy with no strings attached

In the week that Tim Henman achieved the highest world ranking by a British male tennis player for 12 years...



man, as he used to, seemed nothing by comparison with holding up a trophy...

It seems more appropriate now to record that also on the trophy were the names of Jorgen Windahl and Geoff Whitcross...

TOMORROW

A sprint sensation who has joined the dot queue

year 2000, about his interview on Sportsnight with Des Lynam, about how Sky News cameras turned up at his home in Curdridge...



Triumphant in Melbourne in 1993, Baily turned his back on tennis the next year

ly the travel, meeting people, and the experience of other cultures, the elation of winning and the depths of despair of injury and loss...



Now a student, Baily has no regrets about his decision

Advertisement for BT mobile phones with 'Warning: This Diverse 1000 digital cordless phone is so clear, that you're asked not to hold a glass of sparkling mineral water at the same time as making a call.'

BT logo and slogan 'It's good to talk' with contact information.

Surely some small regret, when you watched Henman at Wimbledon, that you had not at least stuck at it longer?

SNOOKER: POLITICAL WRANGLING OVERSHADOWS START OF GRAND PRIX

Doyle calls for Spencer to stand down
POLITICAL in-fighting in professional snooker is hardly a new phenomenon...

The Grand Prix, the first domestic tournament of the season, which carries a world-ranking point tariff, begins its ten-day run at the Bournemouth International Centre...

SQUASH

Leading contenders slow to find form
FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA
DISAPPOINTMENT in the Perrier World Open Championship last week has obviously left some psychological baggage with the leading contenders...

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48
LASTAGE (a) A toll payable by traders attending fairs and markets, from the medieval Latin lastagium...

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Gift ideas for Christmas. Prices include delivery to EU customers (rest of the world add 11 per cent)...

RADIO CHOICE Still a long way to go
Hungary - Where is 1956? Radio 4, 7.45pm. Paul Neuburg hit upon an effective way to chart the erratic progress Hungary made towards normalisation after Soviet tanks crushed the 1956 revolution...

Table listing various radio programs: RADIO 1, WORLD SERVICE, RADIO 2, RADIO 5 LIVE, TALK RADIO, VIRGIN RADIO, RADIO 3, RADIO 4.





RUGBY LEAGUE 47

Britain stopped in their tracks by President's men

SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16 1996

RACING 49

Lehane bows to pressure in Melbourne Cup bid



Fenerbahce offer hospitable welcome but stern examination United facing friendly fire

FROM ROB HUGHES FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN ISTANBUL

WHEN Manchester United step out into Asia to play a European Cup Champions' League match at 9.30 local time here tonight, they will be advancing into a garden of light.

Things are pleasant here, which will surprise anyone expecting a repetition of past hostilities.

The Turkish people, and the Fenerbahce club in particular, have done everything possible to soothe the waters and to ensure that this encounter will be bathed in proper sporting

Ajax's new home ..... 48 Defiant Sunderland ..... 48

friendship, even though no one is pretending that it is less than a vital contest, or that the 26,200 Fenerbahce supporters who will fill the ground to capacity will be anything less than fanatical in support of their 'Canaries' against what they consider to be a giant of Europe.

Manchester United, limping into the stadium for training last night, had several players tentatively hoping to persuade Alex Ferguson, their manager, of their match fitness.

One man whose place is in no doubt, despite his admission over the weekend that his



Ferguson was quick to defend Cantona, the out-of-form Manchester United captain, on the eve of the match against Fenerbahce yesterday

performance against Liverpool had been among the worst of his life, is the United captain, Eric Cantona. Indeed, Ferguson grew irritated yesterday when questioned about him.

last Saturday, when he strayed out to the left wing, was that, because France no longer pick him, Cantona had to train almost alone in Manchester recently, the others being away for nearly a fortnight on international duty, with the exception of David May.

Sebastiao Lazaroni, the Brazilian who coaches Fenerbahce, also spoke in praise of Cantona, though with a slightly mischievous aside. Cantona is a fine player, Lazaroni enthused.

Lazaroni, like his predecessor in charge of the Turkish club, Carlos Alberto Parreira, is not exactly a guardian angel of the beautiful game. He coached the 1990 Brazil World Cup side, Parreira coached the 1994 World Cup winners, and both are of the school of pragmatists who have tried to add order and defensiveness to Brazil's game.

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, D, L, P, A, Pt. Includes Juventus, Manchester United, Rapid Vienna, Rapid Vitoria, Feyenoord, Ajax.

RESULTS: Juventus 1 Manchester United 0; Rapid Vienna 1 Feyenoord 1; Manchester United 2 Rapid Vienna 0; Feyenoord 0 Juventus 1.

prisingly, Lazaroni spoke yesterday of "concentrating 100 per cent during the game because Manchester United have players in the front line on the flanks and even from midfield who can penetrate very fast. Our first job is to neutralise these dangers."

Fenerbahce's league record suggests that neutralising is second nature to them. They have conceded only six goals in 11 games this season, and let in only 19 in 34 last term.

crowds. Jes Høgh, who has played 29 times for Denmark in front of Schmeichel, is an eloquent talker on and off the field, a calm player.

"We have to win four points out of these two games against Manchester United," Høgh reasoned. "Or else our chance of qualifying behind Juventus in the group is gone."

Both sides agree on that: both Ferguson and Lazaroni consider Juventus to be the leading team in the group, and concede that they are effectively playing one another for second place.

United players and officials admit that they will settle for a draw tonight, given their unbeaten record in European games at Old Trafford.

English families or by students of the French college of St Joseph - depending on which page of history you turn - Fenerbahce have gathered many years of experience.

They expend no mean wealth on recruiting worldly talent. Apart from Høgh, they have two Africans: the central defender, Uche Okochukwu, and, in midfield, Augustine Okocha, a mercurial Nigerian whose dancing feet can bewitch and bewaste.

And for United? This, surely, is a time to go gentle, but not meek. Into the night, FENERBAHCE (probably: 4-4-0; R Ruutu - Y Biser, U Okochukwu, J Høgh, H Bratten - U Buleri, A Okocha, S Kamsalekin, A Turbay - E Bolic, E Kosticov.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Times Two Crossword No 914.

ACROSS: 1 Sky spectrum (7) 5 Raised platform (4) 9 Underwater worker (5) 10 Bring into being: understand (7) 11 Invaluable helper (5-4-3) 12 Before 1939 (or 1918) (5-3) 13 Notoriety (6) 16 Made to seem less important (12) 19 Nature-spirit worshipper (7) 20 Fix (computer program) (5) 21 Quote (4) 22 Hide boat (7) DOWN: 1 Be carried (4) 2 Statement of money owed (7) 3 In which one is naked (8,4) 4 Dignitary (6) 6 Widely-accepted principle (5) 7 In harsh, strict way (7) 8 Soldiers for slaughter (6,6) 12 Unimaginative (7) 14 Old distilling retort (7) 15 Scandinavian sea (6) 17 Turn out of home (5) 18 Leer at (4)

Wonder-goal elevates Ronaldo to superstar status in Spain

The Spanish sporting press has always been partial to purple prose, but read these lines from the football correspondent of El Pais: "This boy, with the body of a massiff, the looks of a lamb and the teeth of a bunny rabbit, is one of those mutations that happens when the Gods play dice."

Tunku Varadarajan on the boy from Brazil now taking Barcelona by storm

equal number handed on a plate to his grateful teammates, looks like the Spanish equivalent of the snip of the century.

There is another reason why Spain has, recently, gone absolutely loco for Ronaldo. He has, according to observers here, just scored one of the greatest goals of all time, one that ranks alongside Maradona's unforgettable bewitching of England's defence in Mexico in 1986.

more complex plan. Robson, nakedly, has gone for the first option.

Barcelona's tactics this season have been to defend in the hope that Ronaldo will eventually launch himself at the opponents' goal and score. He has, so far, carried this plan on the back of his prodigious talent.



Ronaldo: the "new Pelé"

Barcelona's tactics this season have been to defend in the hope that Ronaldo will eventually launch himself at the opponents' goal and score.

Yet, as long as Ronaldo keeps scoring, Robson is unworried. Only one defender has so far been able to tie him down: César Gómez, of Tenerife. After that match, a shattered Gómez said: "Marking him is the most difficult job in the world. I just prayed a lot and ran my socks off. I was lucky."

Many would say he was, as the referee ought to have sent him off for at least two of his fouls on Ronaldo. Defenders are learning, however, that this boy-ox can take punishment without flinching.

Rangers seek to earn the right of reply

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN AMSTERDAM

AS IF wounding results in Europe were not bad enough, Rangers have had to endure cutting words this season.

Another manager, Christian Gross, criticised Rangers' attitude after Grasshopper Club's 3-0 victory in the opening match of the Champions' League.

The Ajax coach castigated Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne, saying that "they played for themselves and not for the team".

Van Gaal's disapproval of Laudrup and Gascoigne was inevitable, given that his own vision of excellence places more emphasis on tactical intelligence than individualism.

The Dane responded to Van Gaal's opinions like a man who has heard, and ignored, such accusations many times before.

The Rangers manager had a more antagonistic reply. "It seems that every coach we have faced this season has had some adverse comment to make," Smith said.

ed one because he has had a lot of success, but maybe the effort of keeping that success going is one of the reasons he is leaving."

Van Gaal's team has indeed been floundering and he has confirmed that he will take up a post with a foreign club next season.

Ajax's form, since seeing Michael Reiziger and Edgar Davids move to AC Milan, under the Bosman ruling, without compensation, has been flimsy and they are at present a mid-table team in the Dutch league.

Van Gaal's mood has not been helped by the likely absence this evening of the injured Jari Litmanen and Patrick Kluyvert, as well as the veteran Danny Blind, who will be unavailable for months after undergoing surgery.

ber, and by Panathinaikos in the first leg of their semi-final last season.

The team may even lack the reassuring excellence of Andy Goram, as the goalkeeper is troubled by a hip injury. The party taken to Amsterdam brides, of necessity, with youngsters such as Giv' Shields, Paul McKnight, Steven Boyack and Brian McGinty.

before this evening is over.

MorseData advertisement for 'One Big Happy Family' featuring Hewlett-Packard servers and networking solutions.

وَكُنَّا مِنَ الْاَصْلِ